

New Program Aims to Speed Preclinical Drug Development

By Serguei V. Kozlov and Maritta Perry Grau



Terry Van Dyke, Ph.D., Chief, Mouse Cancer Genetics Program, and Director, Center for Advanced Preclinical Research, NCI-Frederick

Many drugs seem promising when tested in laboratory animals, but about 95 percent fail in human clinical trials. To improve this track record and to save time and costs associated with unsuccessful

clinical trials, SAIC-Frederick, Inc., has launched a new program.

The Center for Advanced Preclinical Research (CAPR), Basic Science Directorate, will use genetically engineered mouse models and gene expression profiling to more accurately assess the potential of candidate drugs to succeed in clinical trials. Initial projects will focus on cancers of the central nervous system and prostate.

CAPR Uses GEMs

In the standard xenograft technique for studying cancer treatments, human tumor cells may be injected into the mouse. When the tumor reaches a particular size, therapy begins.

The CAPR approach, however, uses genetically engineered mouse cancer models (GEMs) to design novel approaches for early-stage cancer drug development, clarifying molecular mechanisms of tumor pathology and identifying novel pathways, drug targets, and biomarkers related to carcinogenesis. With GEMs, CAPR staff can more easily analyze specific gene expression profiles (“molecular signatures”) of resistant tumors.

CAPR Director Brings Novel Mouse Models to the Program

CAPR’s three specialized teams will produce “novel candidate drug targets,

(continued on page 3)

Made to Order

By Maritta Perry Grau

The uniqueness of NCI-Frederick’s research is matched by the uniqueness of some of its buildings. Recently, the Applied Developmental Directorate (ADD) and Facilities Maintenance and Engineering (FME) developed a new building—number 310— from 11 modular components.

The new 9,200-square-foot building gives ADD staff nearly triple the space it has now. First-floor laboratory space includes three BSL-2 laboratories, one unique BSL-2* laboratory, and a more traditional laboratory or scientific equipment room; autoclaves; a cold room and dark room; and three document storage vaults. The

second floor includes 4,400 square feet of offices, conference room, break room, receptionist’s area, mechanical space, and LAN/telephone room.

The buildings are so solidly constructed that very little noise penetrates from one floor to the other. In many ways, Building 310 is self-sustaining, with its own emergency diesel back-up power, liquid nitrogen supply, and CO₂ system.

The new facility is being built through an SAIC-Frederick, Inc., contract with Lockard Construction, a site development and construction company from Cedar Falls, Iowa. Each unit is



When finished, the Applied Developmental Directorate’s new Building 310 will more than triple its research space.

16.5’ x 48’ and weighs 45,000–60,000 pounds. Five units make up each of the two floors, while the eleventh unit, placed vertically at one end, contains the staircase. The units were built by Arts-Way Scientific, Inc., in Monona,

(continued on page 3)

Arthur's Corner**SAIC-Frederick
Spreads the Word***Dr. Larry Arthur*

A local teacher and longtime resident said she was surprised after hearing a presentation to her fifth-grade class about the National Cancer

Institute at Frederick. "I've been here for 30 years, and I had no idea that this kind of work was going on over there. This is really impressive."

A similar reaction followed the Frederick *News-Post's* recent article on SAIC-Frederick Inc., describing our role as prime contractor to NCI-Frederick and the work we are doing for the government in basic research, translational and applied science, and in monitoring clinical trials of new drugs.

The classroom visit and newspaper story are just two examples of how SAIC-Frederick is reaching into the community to let people know about the role that NCI-Frederick is playing in advancing the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer and AIDS.

Our Public Affairs Office has been encouraging the local news media to report on the many advances being made at NCI-Frederick, and they are responding with interest. In addition to the recent print coverage (http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/archives/display_detail.htm?StoryID=77691), the local cable television Channel 10 has broadcast several reports on research and development at NCI-Frederick. The television shows, aired the weeks of

January 22 and 29 and February 5. FNPTV has made a special link available to view these shows through the end of June. Go to fnptv.com/saic and click on the link to the show you'd like to view.

For a number of years, SAIC-Frederick has bought advertising space and been given advertising opportunities when sponsoring local civic and charity groups. This space is used to highlight NCI-Frederick and its accomplishments. We have reserved space in the newspaper's annual tabloid-sized business insert, the "Progress Edition," the Chamber of Commerce annual directory, and the annual *Fort Detrick Guide*. This year, SAIC-Frederick will reserve additional space in the newspaper and other local media outlets to give NCI-Frederick even greater visibility.

It is becoming increasingly important for NCI-Frederick to be known for its work and to have well-established relationships with community leaders and residents.

Because we are located behind the gates of Fort Detrick, NCI-Frederick is often thought of as being part of the military complex. We do have relationships with our Fort Detrick neighbors and provide advanced technology and biopharmaceutical support through the NCI to other federal agencies. It is important, however, that our community knows our primary mission: advancing research in cancer and AIDS and accelerating translational research to benefit patients.

As you know, our parent company, SAIC, went public in 2006 and has since become more active in its public relations. Without our own strong presence, it will be easy for the community to mistake SAIC-Frederick as just an arm of the corporation rather than the wholly owned subsidiary that we are.

As the prime contractor to NCI-Frederick, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), we operate very differently from SAIC corporate. We are required to be an identifiable, separate operating unit of the parent organization. We are required to operate in the public interest, be free from organizational conflicts of interest, and have full disclosure to our sponsoring agency. We cannot compete with the private sector, as does our corporate parent. These FFRDC authorities make it possible for us to provide quick response capability to achieve the urgent and changing needs of NCI. This also makes us especially effective in helping to establish public-private partnerships for the government.

If there is an event or accomplishment that you think might have wide community interest, please contact Frank Blanchard, Director, Public Affairs, blanchardf@mail.nih.gov. Also remember that SAIC-Frederick staff must obtain NCI approval—via the Media Contact Approval form available from Public Affairs—before making any contact with the news media.

So as we become more active in reaching out to the community, we are not just beating our own drum. We are taking steps that will help SAIC-Frederick be a more effective FFRDC contractor and that will help NCI-Frederick be more productive in developing new preventives, diagnostics, and treatments for patients with cancer and AIDS. 🍷

Larry O. Arthur, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator of the Operations and Technical Support Contract and Associate Director of the AIDS Vaccine Program, SAIC-Frederick, Inc.

New program *(continued from page 1)*

diagnostic biomarkers, and molecular signatures specific for diverse cancer subsets, as well as correlation matrices connecting expected drug responses with tumor characteristic signatures, thus fueling the maturation of individualized cancer therapy,” noted Terry Van Dyke, Ph.D., CAPR’s director.

Dr. Van Dyke, an internationally renowned cancer biology expert, brings to CAPR much experience using GEMs to streamline drug development, and expertise in construction and research applications of transgenic mouse models. She has brought several projects with her from her previous appointment at the University of North Carolina.

One of those projects involves mouse models of anaplastic astrocytoma and

glioblastoma multiforme—two of the most aggressive and life-threatening tumors of the central nervous system—that were developed in Dr. Van Dyke’s laboratory and are widely used by the scientific community.

CAPR scientists will also analyze another set of animal models from Dr. Van Dyke’s recent research on prostate cancer, the second most common malignancy in North American men. The GEM prostate models will be used to evaluate experimental therapeutic compounds, and the CAPR Research and Development and Macromolecular Analysis sections will study these animals to better understand the molecular events underlying the prostate tumorigenesis.

CAPR’s interactions with programs such as Developmental Therapeutics, Molecular Targets Development, Laboratory Animal Sciences, and ATP’s Molecular Technology and Nanotechnology Characterization laboratories, will aid both CAPR and its partners in research.

“These interactions in most cases will rapidly become a two-way street for information and resource exchange. The scope and the outcome of such partnerships are not only invaluable support factors for Center maturation but also a principal metric for the success of the entire CAPR initiative,” said Mary Carrington, Ph.D., director of the Basic Science Directorate, under which CAPR operates. 🌀

Made to Order *(continued from page 1)*

Iowa, in a new, climate-controlled plant.

Most laboratory equipment was in place before shipment, including 29 pieces of equipment SAIC-Frederick bought and sent to Lockard to install at the factory, ensuring that everything fit exactly right, Craig Robillard, FME, said.

Other work was done on-site. For example, the document storage vaults together weigh about 3,000 pounds. Workers used a forklift to place them inside the second-floor units on-site; then the crane lifted the second-floor units, with vaults secured, into place.

FME employees installed telephone, LAN, and video teleconferencing equipment; the cardkey access system; hood alarms and push-button combination door locks; and interior office signage. They also started the new incubators, relocated the existing equipment to Building 310, constructed specialty laboratory equipment stands, and certified all nine hoods.

The first group of units was shipped on January 21 and arrived four days later—only seven months after construction began. Even the shipment was unique: First, a snow storm in Iowa caused a week’s delay. Then, the caravan had to be timed to arrive at the West Virginia border on Saturday night—travel for structures wider than 16 feet is allowed only on Sundays and during daylight hours in West Virginia.

Planning began over a year ago. In addition to Mr. Robillard, the project team included Drs. Richard Lempicki, Robin Dewar, Doug Kuhns, and Mike Baseler; ADD’s Brad

Foltz; and the NIAID project officer, Julie Metcalf. Wade Schirmer is the SAIC-Frederick Construction Manager for the project. As of this writing, FME plans to turn the keys over to Ms. Metcalf on April 30.

Thanks to FME’s Debbie Dobbe, Craig Robillard, and Wade Schirmer for the information in this article. 🌀



The Iowa plant was so large that the crew could place the modular components side by side to ensure that the doors aligned properly.

BDP Releases Candidate Drugs for Skin, Liver, Brain, Other Cancers

By Kathy Miller

Ovarian cancer. Melanoma. Liver cancer. Leukemia. These are just some of the cancers for which the Biopharmaceutical Development Program (BDP) provides product and process development support. That support, spread over numerous laboratories and programs under Director George Mitra, Ph.D., and Deputy Director John Gilly, Ph.D., develops those products for preclinical development and clinical candidates for selected innovative projects.

The NCI selects and prioritizes candidate projects for which BDP provides feasibility assessments, method development, and clinical materials production. Since BDP began operations in 1993 (formerly MARP–Monoclonal Antibody Recombinant Production Program), the program has successfully undertaken a portfolio of projects. For example, BDP:

- Developed and manufactured prototypes of three new drugs for ovarian cancer (AdD24RGD, Ad5/3-D24, and Ad5.SSTR/TK.RGD); one is currently in clinical trials, two are in toxicology studies.
- Developed and manufactured a drug (IL-15) to make melanoma and other cancers more responsive to chemotherapy. The drug is currently in early- and mid-stage clinical trials.
- Formulated and manufactured three prototype therapies for primary liver cancer (AdVhAFP/phAFP/phGM-CSF). This is a relatively rare but aggressive cancer that is on the rise in the United States and is already a major health problem overseas. The Investigational New Drug (IND) submission is pending for all three components.

Product	Application	Collaborator	Status
AdD24RGD	Adenovirus product designed to attack ovarian tumors that recur and those that form outside of the ovaries	University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)	Phase I clinical trials (June 2007)
Ad-CCL21	Adenovirus product designed as an immune system enhancer for non-small cell lung cancer	University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA)	Phase I clinical trial pending
AdVhAFP/phAFP/phGM-CSF	One adenovirus product and two plasmid products designed for a prime-boost immunization therapy against hepatocellular cancer	UCLA/ University of Pittsburgh	IND submission pending
Ad5/3-D24	Adenovirus product designed to attack ovarian tumors	University of Helsinki, Finland/UAB	Toxicology studies pending
Ad5.SSTR/TK.RGD	Adenovirus product designed to attack ovarian tumors	UAB	Toxicology studies
HA-22	Immunotoxin for leukemia	NCI CRADA with MedImmune, Inc.	Phase I trials ongoing
IL-15	Cytokine for treating cancer and infectious disease. Less toxic than FDA-approved IL-2	CCR, NCI	In development
CRT/E7	Plasmid vector for treating cervical cancer via gene gun administration or IM (Intramuscular) administration	Johns Hopkins University	Preparing IND
LMB-2	CD25-positive hematologic malignancies	CTEP, NCI	Phase I/II clinical trials
Mutant IL-15/Fc and IL-2/Fc	Two protein components in the PowerMix regimen to treat type 1 diabetes mellitus	NIDDK/Harvard Medical School	GLP production of materials to be used in toxicology studies
rRp450	Herpesvirus product designed to attack liver metastases	Harvard Medical School	IND pending
M032	Herpesvirus being developed for the treatment of brain tumors	UAB	Toxicology studies pending
Ad.GMCSF-CAIX	Adenovirus product designed to treat kidney cancer	UCLA	Product development ongoing

- Developed and manufactured a novel drug (immunotoxin) for treating leukemia (HA-22). The compound is now in early-stage clinical trials.
- Developed and manufactured a novel prototype drug (dsDNA decoy) for treatment of Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck (STAT3 Decoy). The

compound has been approved for early-stage clinical trial.

In many cases, BDP works with NCI collaborators and fellow researchers to determine the feasibility of various drugs. More details about products on which BDP is working can be found in the chart on this page. 

PHL Welcomes New Manager, New Technology

By Ashley Hartman



Eric Williams, manager of the Pathology/Histotechnology Laboratory (PHL)

A master's degree in creative writing is something not usually associated with someone working in science. Yet, Eric Williams, the new manager of the Pathology/Histotechnology Laboratory (PHL), holds that degree and believes good writing is essential to his work. "I think it's a really valuable component of doing my job," which includes writing protocols and standard operating procedures for a laboratory that serves more than 250 investigators, he said.

Writing is not the only skill Mr. Williams brings to PHL. With an undergraduate degree in biology from St. John's University in New York, he is certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) as a histotechnologist (HTL) and is also qualified in immunohistochemistry (IHC) by ASCP.

As the manager of PHL, Mr. Williams says his job is twofold: to give investigators what they need and to support the laboratory staff of 16. PHL is an integral part of much of the research at NCI-Frederick because its expertise in study design and histological preparations and

evaluations enables investigators to analyze target cell populations in cancer models. "We extract, stabilize and analyze tissue from animals, taking investigators to the next step," Mr. Williams said. The next step is determined by the investigator, and might include testing for the existence of a protein, DNA, or RNA within a cell, group of cells, or tissues, Mr. Williams said. "We can do some of the analysis for that investigator; however, this is typically where they take over to steer a project in the direction of their interest/study," Mr. Williams said.

Digital Slide Conferencing Now Possible

PHL recently added a digital slide scanner (Aperio ScanScope), which creates true-color digital images that can be shared across campus or around the world. The images are stored in a database at the Advanced Biomedical Computing Center on a secure network. Free viewing software enables integrated color management so the images appear the same in all monitors. According to Scott Lawrence, research associate II and histotechnician (ASCP), "This technology makes digital slide conferencing possible, by allowing researchers to look at the same images and talk to each other from anywhere in the world. It's a very valuable tool. It truly has the potential to change the field of histopathology."

The scope could advance pathology education by allowing students to work with the same slide sets, rather than having unique slides for each student; students will not have to share rare slides; and there is no risk of breaking and/or losing a slide, Mr. Lawrence said. In histopathology research, virtual slides are permanent records of glass slides; they allow for collaboration with other groups across the world; virtual slides are easily accessible; they are consistently of high image quality; and they use little physical space.

Other state-of-the-art technology recently added includes a new

multispectral imaging system that eliminates much of the autofluorescence that can confound an image, providing a clearer view of target cells. The new laser capture microscope has automated features that make it easier to isolate cells of interest from tissue samples. This new technology speeds up dissection, which is especially important when capturing DNA and RNA.

Working with PHL

Usually an investigator's first contact with PHL is through veterinary pathologists, who guide investigators through the approval and protocol set-up for their research. Each request is customized according to the investigator's specific objectives. Once a protocol is established, the investigator may make a direct request to use that same protocol again.



Gloryvee Rivera, research technician, harvests tissue from animals, which are primarily rodents. Each animal is given a number that corresponds to information in a database.

Tissues are harvested, trimmed, dehydrated, cut, and stained for analysis, with quality control checks every step of the way. "Everything we do here is based on the premise of high quality all the time. That's how we think here," noted Mr. Williams. A separate section of the laboratory has been set up to handle work with nanoparticles.

(continued on page 6)

PHL (continued from page 5)

Mr. Williams previously worked at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, CT, as the surgical pathology manager. Before that, he worked for five years at Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in Washington, D.C., as the manager of the histopathology and tissue shared resources core.

For more information about the capabilities of PHL, contact Eric Williams, 301-846-5190, or williamsel3@mail.nih.gov. ↻

Corporate News

SAIC Founder Receives Horatio Alger Award

J. Robert Beyster, SAIC founder, former chairman and chief executive officer, received the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans award earlier this month in Washington, D.C.

Recipients of the Horatio Alger Award are role models who have achieved outstanding success through hard work and perseverance.

“Dr. Beyster’s selection as a recipient of the coveted Horatio Alger Award is most deserving,” said Ken Dahlberg, chairman of the board and CEO.

“As founder of SAIC, he personified the American dream through his achievements as an entrepreneur and great visionary.”

Dr. Beyster chairs the Foundation for Enterprise Development, a nonprofit organization he founded in 1986, and promotes entrepreneurial employee ownership nationally to science and technology communities.

In 2007, he wrote *The SAIC Solution: How We Built an \$8 Billion Employee-owned Technology Company* to describe business principles based on employee ownership and meritocracy used at SAIC. ↻

Saying “Cheese” Not Required

By Maritta Perry Grau

An important addition to NCI-Frederick researchers’ toolbox the past two years is a complete imaging facility—and the mice don’t even have to say “cheese.”

Opened in 2006, the Small-Animal Imaging Program (SAIP) has many in vivo imaging modalities to accommodate the various types of research that take place here and in Bethesda. And while most research institutions’ animal facilities offer only one or two types of imaging modalities, SAIP offers much more, right at your doorstep.

Laura Schmidt, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Basic Research Program,



Lilia Ileva, SAIP, demonstrates the state-of-the-art Maestro In-Vivo Imaging System used for fluorescence-based in-vivo molecular imaging.

SAIC-Frederick, Inc., and Urologic Oncology Branch, NCI, used the SAIP in a project in which the BHD gene was inactivated in the mouse kidney, resulting in enlarged, highly cystic kidneys. “It was very convenient to have the SAIP facility on the NCI-Frederick campus where we could deliver the mice easily from nearby Building 571 in a timely fashion,” said Dr. Schmidt. “This was particularly important to us because kidney function in these mice was severely

impaired and transportation off-site for such studies might have been too stressful for the mice.”

Imaging Lets You See a Drug’s Effect over Time

In a recent interview, Joseph Kalen, Ph.D., SAIP director, pointed out, “With imaging, you don’t have to excise the tumor to see what is going on. Instead, you use the same set of animals and follow their treatment over time, so you don’t have to use nearly as many mice. Studying animals is important to drug development; we can see the effect of a new drug before it is given to patients.”

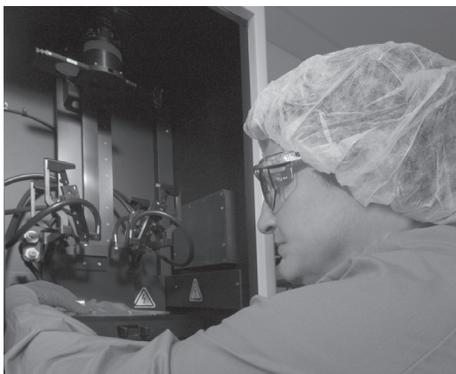
The imaging formats reveal various anatomical and physiological processes, such as apoptosis, hypoxia, tumor growth, and angiogenesis. Ultrasound, PET (Positron Emission Tomography), SPECT (Single Photon Emission

Computed Tomography), and CT (Computed Tomography) are usually done with just one animal at a time, while the optical bioluminescence and fluorescence imaging may be done with five mice at a time. In addition, the time needed to acquire an image varies from a few seconds (fluorescence) to as much as two hours (MRI; magnetic resonance imaging).

Generally, on a given day, Dr. Kalen’s group (Lilia Ileva, M.S.; Lisa Riffle, B.S.; and Richelle Putman) may image six animals with MRI, perform 30 bioluminescence imaging scans, and image four or five with PET or SPECT.

SAIP Can Help at All Stages of a Project

Dr. Schmidt noted that SAIP was very helpful to her group in their project. “Our group used the SAIP



Lisa Riffle, SAIP, adjusts the imaging equipment. The MaesTro In-Vivo Imaging System provides high spectral accuracy and sharp signal separation of images.

facility to perform MRI of mice with the inactivated BHD gene and [enlarged, cystic] mouse kidneys. The MRI provided us with clear images of the cystic structure and displayed the extensive vascularity of the BHD knockout kidneys.”

She added that Dr. Kalen’s group was “extremely helpful in providing detailed information on how the Small-Animal MRI scanner could benefit our particular project. They spent a great deal of time and effort optimizing the parameters for imaging our mice and then provided us with multiple images that were useful in characterizing the BHD knockout phenotype.”

SAIP Provides Invaluable Imaging

Another aspect of imaging invaluable to research is that the image may be 2D (planar) or 3D, depending on what the investigator needs to measure. For example, optical bioluminescence and fluorescence are 2D; 3D images can be obtained with PET, SPECT, MRI, CT, and ultrasound, resulting in transverse, coronal, and sagittal slice images.

Dr. Kalen encourages investigators to attend the first imaging session. “It helps everyone—the investigator to see what is done and our group to be able to discuss with the investigator what

he’s looking for and refine the imaging and analysis,” he said.

A consortium of the Office of Technology and Industrial Relations, the Center for Cancer Research, the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, and the NCI-Frederick Office of the Director set up SAIP. The SAIP Scientific Steering Committee comprises Peter Choyke, M.D., Center for Cancer Research and chief of the Molecular Imaging Program; James Tatum, M.D., Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, and Acting Associate Director for the Cancer Imaging Program; Piotr Grodzinski, Ph.D., Office of the Director, director of the Nanotechnology for Cancer Programs; and Kristin Komschlies, Ph.D., Office of the Director for NCI-Frederick.

SAIP grew out of the MRI technology used for nanoconstructs in the Nanotechnology Characterization Laboratory, managed by Scott McNeil, Ph.D., and out of the In Vivo Fluorescent Imaging program of 2005 that Jeanne Herring, DVM, helped start. Strenuous safeguards are in place for handling and testing the mice. Specific instructions and downloadable forms are available at the SAIP web site, <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/saip/>.

If you have any questions about using in vivo imaging in your research, contact Dr. Choyke (Molecular Imaging Program, NCI) at pchoyke@nih.gov, or Dr. Kalen at 301-846-5283, <kalenj@mail.nih.gov>. ↻

SAIC-Frederick to Represent NCI-Frederick at BIO2008

By Maritta Perry Grau

SAIC-Frederick, Inc., will join other major sponsors at the Maryland pavilion for the BIO2008 international convention, being held this year in San Diego, CA, June 17–20. This year’s theme is “Heal, Fuel, Feed the World.” Among the presenters will be the Biopharmaceutical Development Program’s deputy director, John Gilly, Ph.D. This is SAIC-Frederick’s third year at the convention and second year as a major sponsor. ↻



At last year’s BIO2007, John Gilly, Ph.D., deputy director for the Biopharmaceutical Development Program, discusses with a researcher some of the scientific technology that SAIC-Frederick, Inc., offers.

Happy Tree Featured at Spring Research Festival 2008

By Ashley Hartman

The 12th annual Spring Research Festival (SRF), scheduled for May 14 and 15, features the *Camptotheca acuminata* as its symbol because of the plant's cancer-fighting properties.

A collaborative effort between the National Cancer Institute at Frederick and Fort Detrick, the festival will be held beside the Community Activities Center along Porter Street. Some of the festival events include a presentation from NCI's Director, John E. Niederhuber, Ph.D., and exhibits about health, community service, safety, scientific research, and the latest technologies. Scientific staff will present their research to the joint scientific communities and the general public during scientific poster sessions.

This year, the poster area will be larger, according to Julie Hartman, chairperson of the festival. "Hopefully, we will have more room for all the scientists to collaborate this year," she said.



This Year's Symbol

Camptotheca acuminata, also known as the "Cancer Tree" or "Happy Tree," is native to China and Tibet and grows to more than 70 feet.

"The SRF committee thought that the *Camptotheca acuminata* was very much appropriate since one of our missions at NCI-Frederick is to help relieve the burden of cancer on humans," Ms. Hartman said.

For treating cancer, the primary compound in *Camptotheca acuminata* is camptothecin, which comes from its bark, according to the SRF web site. Drugs that resulted from this compound include 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. The tree's compounds are used for treating AIDS because they have antiviral as well as antitumor properties.



Organizers of the SRF have ordered a supply of *Camptotheca acuminata* seeds and will give them away to SRF participants, according to the SRF web site. The recipients will be given instructions with the seeds to ensure that the plants thrive.

Poster Deadlines

Poster presenters, judges, and health education and community services exhibitors must register by May 1. Online registration can be completed at <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/Logon.aspx>.

Commercial vendors and exhibitors can register with the Technical Sales Association through GTP Management Services International at <http://www.gtpmgt.com>.

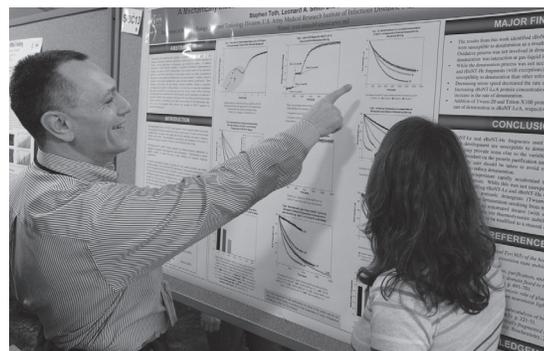


Other Exhibits and Activities

Dr. Niederhuber will speak on May 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Building 549.

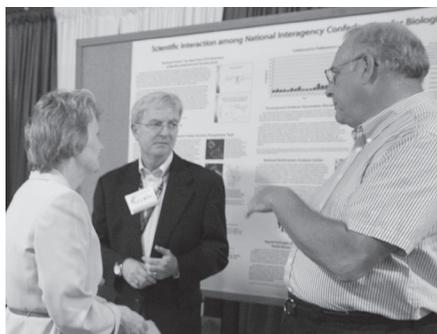
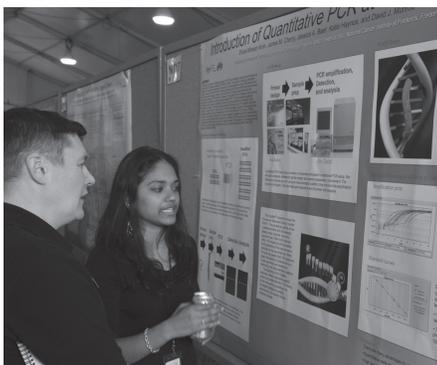
The festival will also include a health education and community services exhibition area, featuring representatives from national and local health-related organizations as well as safety and scientific exhibits. Information about cancer, AIDS, health resources, aging, drug and alcohol concerns, mental health, fitness, nutrition, educational opportunities, and more will be available.

A commercial science and technology expo, sponsored by



the Technical Sales Association, will provide an opportunity to see a large selection of some of the most advanced equipment, instruments, and services technology presented by national and regional vendors. The Technical Sales Association also supports the awards for the best scientific posters.

As a part of Science in the Cinema, the movie *An Inconvenient Truth* will be shown on May 6, 12, and 14, and Dr. Kirk Gustafson, Molecular Targets



Development Program, will be the guest speaker.

Zí Paní will be available for breakfast and lunch throughout SRF. Rita's Italian Ice will offer different flavors of ice, and profits will be donated to Alex's Lemonade Stand (<http://www.alexlemonade.org/>), an organization that supports finding a cure for pediatric cancer.

For details about exhibits and activities, visit <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/>. ☺

The pictures on pages 8 and 9 are from the 2007 Spring Research Festival and the 2007 Take Your Child To Work Day.

More Children Anticipated at Take Your Child To Work Day

By Nancy Parrish

Take Your Child To Work Day has been moved back to July 30 this year to allow more preparation time. "We felt we needed more of a break between the Spring Research Festival and Take Your Child To Work Day to give scientists some time to create a program," said Julie Hartman, chair of the event. More than 300 children registered last year, and at least that many, or more, are anticipated this year. With so many children, Ms. Hartman said, more programs are needed so that each child has an opportunity to attend a minimum of two programs. In response to a survey of parents last year, the Hub area activities will be open longer: outdoor Hub activities will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and indoor activities will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "We got many suggestions from parents to change the Hub hours," Ms. Hartman noted, and she anticipates that these hours will accommodate more children.

Want to Prepare a Program or Hub Activity?

If you've never presented a program, the Take Your Child To Work Day committee encourages you to consider doing one this year. The committee will help you every step of the way and even provide some supplies if you need them. Check out the web site, <http://kidsday.ncifcrf.gov/info/>, for ideas and more information; or contact Julie Hartman, 301-846-7338, hartmanjb@mail.nih.gov.



Reminders!

This event is open only to children ages 6 through 13. Children over age 13 may register to volunteer. All children attending the registered programs must wear closed shoes: no flip flops or sandals, please! ☺



Smedley Receives Foster Foundation Award for Academic Excellence

By Maritta Perry Grau



Jeremy Smedley,
D.V.M.

Jeremy Smedley, D.V.M., tied for highest score on both the written and practical sections of the 2007 American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) examination. Of the 86 people

who took the exam, only 22 percent passed. As a result of his scores, Dr. Smedley has received the Henry and Lois Foster Foundation Award for Academic Excellence in Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Dr. Smedley, an SAIC-Frederick employee, is the Senior Animal Program Veterinarian with the Laboratory Animal Sciences Program (LASP) and the Facility Veterinarian for LASP's Large Animal Facility on the Bethesda campus.

The award, a plaque and an honorarium of \$1,000, will be presented to Dr. Smedley at the ACLAM Forum in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, April 16.

"Becoming board-certified was by far the most difficult and, by extension, the most rewarding academic achievement of my veterinary career. To be recognized as a specialist in the field of laboratory animal medicine is to join an elite group of veterinarians supporting science and scientists involved in animal research. To receive Foster awards for both sections of the certification examination is to join an elite group within an elite group whose

knowledge and expertise have gained them recognition as being at the top of their field. I am truly honored to be recognized in this fashion," Dr. Smedley said. ☺

Dawn White Named Employee Relations Manager

By Jill Sugden



Dawn White, Employee
Relations Manager

Dawn White is SAIC-Frederick, Inc.'s new Employee Relations Manager. She brings to our organization a broad background in Human Resources management

and a master's degree in Public Administration. Ms. White's role is to support both employees and management in addressing matters of concern, ensuring a workplace that supports the efforts of all employees. She is available to provide confidential consultation to both individuals and work groups.

Ms. White's work day is full of variety. On a given day, she may deal with allegations of harassment, concerns regarding job performance, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accommodations, or general concerns about the work environment. She is responsible for assisting employees and managers with understanding, interpreting, and complying with organizational policies and procedures.

"I look for the positives in each situation. That can be a challenge, but at the end of the day, I am satisfied when I know I have helped all parties choose paths that are advantageous," she said in a recent interview. ☺

Who's Who in Occupational Health Services: Robert J. Thomas, M.D.

By Nancy Parrish

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on the staff of Occupational Health Services at NCI-Frederick.



Robert J. Thomas, M.D.

Robert J. Thomas, M.D., may work part-time at NCI-Frederick, but his dedication to medicine is clearly full-time. The physician for the Occupational Health Services (OHS) clinic,

Dr. Thomas became medical director for NCI-Frederick more than 30 years ago, when only two registered nurses worked at the clinic.

Today, he provides medical oversight of 12 medical professionals, who regularly conduct physical exams and provide injury care, case management, medical surveillances, and a host of other health-related activities. "But they do the work...my job is to help them," he explained. He also attends the Institutional Biosafety Committee meetings and he networks with Frederick Memorial Hospital. "With his depth of knowledge and experience, he brings standards of excellence in occupational medicine to the clinic," said Alberta Peugeot, OHS Manager.

A lifelong Frederick resident, Dr. Thomas, a retired surgeon, has been Chief of Surgery as well as Chief of the Medical Staff and member of the Board of Trustees at Frederick Memorial Hospital. He is also a member of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, a

(continued on page 11)

Who's who *(continued from page 10)*

former fellow of the American College of Surgeons and diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, past president of the Frederick County Medical Society, medical director for Eastalco Aluminum Company, and he served as Medical Examiner for Frederick County for 30 years. "Like Quincy," he says with a smile.

In 1993, in conjunction with Frederick Memorial Hospital, Dr. Thomas helped establish Corporate Occupational Health Solutions, which today provides free-standing clinics for work-related injuries and other services for companies in Frederick and Carroll counties.

Over the years, OHS has increased the number of medical surveillance programs to accommodate the changing biomedical environment, Dr. Thomas said. Case management capabilities have also greatly expanded. Working closely with the nurse practitioners, Dr. Thomas establishes goals for patients under case management to ensure the best possible outcome.

In addition to direct medical care for work-related illness or injury, OHS provides immunizations, fitness-for-duty evaluations, travel medicine, pregnancy consultations, and training in CPR and First Aid. Dr. Thomas speaks with pride about the expertise

of the staff and the quality of care provided at OHS. "The care [at OHS] has always been A+, and it's just that good today," he said.

Married with four grown children and seven grandchildren, Dr. Thomas enjoys playing golf and traveling. Even though he has seen most major cities in this country, he says he'd like to see more of the United States. "Everyone wants to go to Europe and Africa. I'd like to see my own country, quite honestly." ❧

Supergraphics Profile**LMT Team Leader Screens Thousands of Samples**

By Ashley Hartman

When her older sister died of cancer, Kristen Pike, M.S., of the Laboratory of Molecular Technology (LMT), made it her goal to go into cancer research.

Ms. Pike has now been with SAIC-Frederick, Inc., for more than 15 years. She is the Team Leader for LMT's Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Genomics Group at Tollhouse Avenue.

She performs and manages the genetic mutation screening of thousands of patient samples under CLIA regulations.

Congress passed CLIA in 1988 to establish quality standards for all



laboratory testing to ensure that patient test results are accurate, reliable, and timely, regardless of where the test is performed, according to the Food and Drug Administration's web site.

"My group offers hundreds of mutation detection assays comprising more than 40 genes involved in both cancer and immunodeficiency diseases," Ms. Pike said.

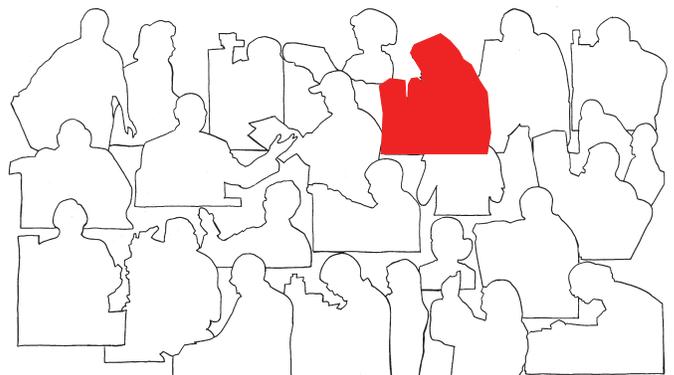
She also performs and manages testing for human pathogens and mycoplasma in cell lines that will be used in future in vivo studies.

Ms. Pike was attracted to SAIC-Frederick because "it is known as one of the leading cancer research facilities in the nation, and it's practically right in my back yard since I am from Williamsport in Washington County," she said. What she enjoys most about her work is that it may eventually help tailor some patients' treatments to improve their lives.

In her free time, Ms. Pike enjoys a variety of sports, including softball, volleyball, swimming, biking, billiards, and ping pong. She has a team that represents SAIC-Frederick, in the annual Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused (CASA) tournament in Pinesburg, Maryland.

When she found out her picture would be a part of the supergraphic, Ms. Pike said she was surprised and honored. "I am proud to represent SAIC-Frederick, especially as a female scientist," she said.

The supergraphic images on the walls of Building 549 celebrate the diversity of talents, expertise, and creativity of NCI-Frederick employees. ❧



February Fitness Challenge Winners Announced

By Ashley Hartman

The winners of February's Fitness Challenge have truly made fitness a part of their daily lives.

Thomas DiMaggio, a clinical research nurse, is the winner for the greatest number of pounds lost. He has lost 20 pounds since January and did so by eating a healthy diet and exercising three to four times a week.

Sally Biser, a supervisor for Charles River Laboratories, is the winner of the greatest number of miles walked. "I love to walk and do so most days,"



(From left) Sally Biser, Terri McLellan, and Scott Schiffhauer were three of the five February Fitness Challenge winners. (Not pictured: Thomas DiMaggio and Mike Frydl).

said Ms. Biser, who walked 111 miles in February.

Mike Frydl, who bikes 60 miles a week, is the winner for the greatest number of miles biked. The systems analyst for the U.S. Army Joint Medical Logistics Functional

Development Center said biking is something he has always enjoyed.

Scott Schiffhauer, a programmer analyst, is the winner for running the greatest number of miles. He ran 60 miles in February. "I was surprised because I am only training for a half marathon," Mr. Schiffhauer said.

Technology Operations Manager Terri McLellan is the winner for the greatest number of hours spent performing other fitness activities. She completed 57.5 hours. "I have a horse I spend many hours working with," said Ms. McLellan, who also goes to the gym six days a week.

For more information about the NCI-Frederick Fitness Challenge, visit <http://saic.ncifcrf.gov/fitnesschallenge/>. ↻

SAIC-Frederick Supports Running Festival

By Nancy Parrish

More than 70 employees will represent SAIC in the Frederick Running Festival on May 3 and 4. Team member Larry Arthur, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, SAIC-Frederick, Inc., is pleased with the turnout. "This really shows the result of our efforts in promoting employee fitness," he said.

Proceeds will benefit the United Way of Frederick County and the Special Olympics of Maryland. SAIC-Frederick is supporting the team as well as donating to the event itself. For information: <http://www.frederickmarathon.org>. Interested in working at the SAIC water station? Contact Frank Blanchard, Public Affairs Director, at 301-846-1893.

Supporting the American Cancer Society

SAIC-Frederick is also supporting the Healing Stars, a team in the Frederick County Relay for Life, which benefits the American Cancer Society. Daniel



More than 70 employees will team up for the Frederick Running Festival. Shown here are a few eager team members.

Mathis, son of Paula Mathis, Registered Nurse, OHS, organized the team to honor family members who have been affected by cancer. The event takes place on May 16 and 17. For more information, or to donate, visit <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/healingstars>, or contact Ms. Mathis at 301-846-1096.

The American Cancer Society will also benefit from the sale of 200 daffodil shoots to SAIC-Frederick. According to Paul Miller, Program Analyst, NCI-Frederick, and chair of the Campus Improvement Committee, a "Garden of Hope" will be created with the daffodils on the west side of Building 549 to provide "a quiet space on campus, for reflection or meditation."

Other recent SAIC-Frederick contributor's include a donation to

the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT), a coalition of more than 100 leading employers throughout Maryland who are dedicated to student achievement. For information, visit <http://www.mbrt.org/>.

SAIC-Frederick will again support a training program for international journalists covering the 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, August 3–8, 2008. Sponsored by the National Press Foundation, the program helps journalists better understand the issues that will be addressed during the conference. For information, visit <http://www.nationalpress.org/>. ↻

A "Garden of Hope" was planted outside Building 549 by Woody Smith (L) and Robert Jackson, Facilities Maintenance and Engineering.



Project Management

Plan for Quality

By Carmen Clark

One of the most important components of the Project Management Plan is the Quality Plan, yet few project plans contain one. Why is that?



Employees at a recent project management training session discuss ways to develop a quality plan that addresses standards, metrics, and other issues.

Two main reasons often are 1) a quality plan is too complicated to create and 2) the jargon in relation to compliance with standards, metrics, and a range of acronyms is overwhelming and confusing.

There are different ways to judge quality in a project. From an administrative perspective, project quality includes whether the project was completed on schedule, within budgeted cost, and met or exceeded customer expectations. From a technical perspective, project quality also includes providing a “deliverable” (the product or service) that does what it is intended to do and is engineered to last.

The difference between the two perspectives is project quality versus deliverable quality. Both are important aspects of the project.

Project quality refers to the proper application of project management techniques to cost, time, resources, communication, and change management within the project.

Deliverable quality refers to the fit for purpose and how well the deliverable meets the user’s needs.

A high-quality project usually generates a high-quality deliverable because quality assurance practices went into the development of the deliverable. If quality assurance is not a part of the project plan, the project may not deliver a high-quality product or service.

For more information on Project Quality Management, contact Carmen Clark (clarkcar@mail.nih.gov) or Steve Harshman (harshmanj@mail.nih.gov). ☞



Employees at a recent project management training session work out the details for a quality plan.

Quality Management

Managing the Customer’s Experience

By Steve Harshman

Providing excellent customer service doesn’t occur with just one interaction. Servicing the customer is a process, and every interaction we have with

the customer contributes to his or her overall experience. But where does this process begin and end?



Steve Harshman, Quality Assurance Officer

The customer’s first interaction with an organization, whether through a web site, phone call, or face-to-face meeting, both establishes an initial impression and

initiates the process that ultimately defines the customer’s perception of both you and your company. If this interaction leads to a service request, working with the customer to define requirements is the next step. If you do this step effectively, the customer will be impressed with your professionalism in defining the requirements, and you will clearly understand what needs to be delivered to satisfy the customer.

Keep the customer informed throughout the project, responding promptly to any concerns. Being informed and involved is important to the customer and, therefore, an important part of his or her overall experience.

You may think the process stops once the product or service is delivered, but that is not the case. Following up with the customer to ensure satisfaction and to address any concerns is the final step that defines the customer’s experience.

As service providers, we must ensure that each interaction is a positive experience for the customer. If the interactions are successful, we can turn satisfied customers into loyal customers; and this is a positive experience for both the customer and you. ☞

BDP Sends More than 40 Boxes of Gifts to Troops

By Kathy Miller and Brenda Chasteen

Employees of the Biopharmaceutical Development Program (BDP) have continued to show team spirit by generously donating more than 40 boxes of items to American troops overseas. The donations range from toiletries, books, clothing, and CDs/DVDs, to Girl Scout cookies and other foods. Girl Scout troops handmade approximately 1,000 cards, which, along with a very large box of cookies baked by Girl Scouts, were sent during the holidays. Girl Scout donations were coordinated through BDP employees Patricia Green, Emma Travis-Howard, and Dana Randall.

Brenda Chasteen coordinated winter holiday donations, including a Christmas tree and ornaments. Vonnie Hill donated two handmade banners for the Thanksgiving holidays. Many of the BDP employees signed these banners with well wishes for the troops (see “BDP Gives Thanks in a Big Way,” page 21, *Poster*, December 2007).

One of the BDP’s own, Deena Wisner, has a son, Dan, serving his second deployment in Iraq. He distributed the donations to the more than 200 men and women serving in his troop. Ms. Wisner,

her son, and those serving with him expressed great appreciation for the continued support, not only for them, but for all the men and women serving in our armed forces. ☺



BDP staffers continued their generosity during the winter holidays, sharing cards, cookies, personal items, and CDs and DVDs to troops overseas.

Contract Close-Out: Get Your Orders in Early

By Maritta Perry Grau

Ending a contract is a bit like closing out a bank account: You’ve got to be sure all obligations have cleared the bank before you can start a new account.

In the same way, while each year September 25 marks the end of the fiscal year, this year it also denotes the end of the current SAIC-Frederick, Inc., contract, with even more special demands that have to be cleared.

A letter was e-mailed to everyone in February and March, listing deadlines and additional information (<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/campus/als/downloads/2008-DeadlineLetter.pdf>). Review the deadlines carefully. Allow additional time for contracting officer approval, if needed, and for outsourced work.

Capital equipment: August 1

Renovations or alteration of real property: August 8

Purchase requests: September 12 (Except isotopes)

Blanket Orders: September 18

Purchase Cards: September 18

Direct pays: September 19

Radioisotope orders: September 19

Warehouse requisitions: September 23

Beth Kelly, Manager, Financial Operations, explained, “Even if you are not requesting the actual orders, you need to know the dates so that your requirements can be coordinated with your administrative personnel and forwarded for processing in time...[include a] statement of work/item description, sole source justification, if applicable, appropriate signature authorization, and other special approvals,” Ms. Kelly said. Otherwise, you risk missing the

opportunity to order materials before the fiscal year ends.

For accountability: Blanket order releases, credit card transactions and warehouse requisitions must be entered into the appropriate database the same day the order is placed.

For construction contracts/outsourced renovations: Send a purchase requisition with its conceptual/fiscal approval well before August 8.

Emergency orders and specialty items, such as liquid nitrogen, dry ice, and feed/bedding, can be ordered as needed through the end of the contract.

If you have questions, call Donna Follin, 301-846-1124, about purchase requests; David Kelbaugh, 301-846-1082, for items from the Supply Warehouse; or Ginny Whipp, 301-846-1119, for budgetary information. You may also find much information on the ALS Web site <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/campus/als/>. ☺

On Effective Communication

It's About Time!

By Ken Michaels

In the mid-twentieth century, the railroad system in Italy was notorious for the unreliability of its daily schedules. Benito Mussolini bolstered his rise to power by promising to end the country's transportation troubles. After seizing control, he touted his authority and leadership with the claim that he made Italy's trains run on time.

Aside from trains, wouldn't it be nice if scientific meetings and symposia, too, also ran on time, especially when concurrent sessions are involved?

Meetings that don't run on time are annoying. In my own communications



utopia, the meetings I attend begin on time, speakers stick scrupulously to their allotted time, and the event concludes on time or a little early. When that happens, I can more fully concentrate on what I'm there for—the content.

Speakers who drone on past their allotted time show disrespect for both the audience and the other speakers. More than once I've heard the last speakers on the docket having to rush their presentations in order to end the session on time. In such situations, those last few speakers were shortchanged. Running over one's allocated time slot is poor form.

Even when prompted by the emcee to finish up, the "overtime" speaker has few options available if there's still more material. I've seen speakers speed talk and fast-flip through a dozen slides or more, sometimes skipping some altogether—which prompts the question: if the material was unimportant enough

to skip, why was it in the talk in the first place? It mainly demonstrates to the audience that the speaker was not well prepared.

Here's a suggestion that will endear you to your colleagues: If you're invited to give a 30-minute presentation, do it in 25. Nobody minds when you finish early; the worst it can do is provide a few extra minutes for Q&A. And how do you know if you can do it in 25 minutes? Practice it.

I understand that the idea of practicing a presentation is considered unnecessary by many experienced public speakers. But if there's only one good reason, regardless of experience, it would be to ensure that you can get your important messages across in the time allotted.

The importance of being on time cannot be overemphasized. Just ask anyone who has traveled to Italy. 🌀

Updating Contact Information on the NCI-Frederick Online Phonebook

Remember to send any new contact information, such as e-mail address changes, to the NCI-Frederick online phonebook.

For changes to your individual listing, log on to the online phonebook at <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/campus/phonebook/>. Use the Quick Search to retrieve your record, click on your name, and then the Change Details button.

Changes will be automatically forwarded to your Human Resources/Organizational representative. Updating your individual listing through the web site can be done only on an NCI-Frederick computer. If your computer is not recognized by the NCI-Frederick system, please

HR/Organizational Representatives:

Charles River Laboratories

Shirley Eyler..... 301-846-6292eylers@ncifcrf.gov

Data Management Services

Pam Mendelsohn 301-694-5230pqm@css.ncifcrf.gov

NCI-Frederick

Megan Etzler..... 301-846-535etzlerm@mail.nih.gov

SAIC-Frederick, Inc.

Retha Parsons..... 301-846-1146hr@ncifcrf.gov

WISCO

Howard Wilson..... 240-674-2859 NCIFredLibrary@mail.nih.gov

contact your HR/Organizational Representative, listed in the box above.

Changes made to Individual Listings are not automatically transferred to the Services Directory section or the organization listings of NCI-Frederick Telephone and Services Directory. To submit requests for changes to

these listings, e-mail Scientific Publications, Graphics & Media, at spgm@ncifcrf.gov. 🌀

SAIC-Frederick Training Calendar

Communication Series

Scientific Writing Workshop	April 21, 23, and 25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Persuasive Business Writing	May 29, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Effective Oral Presentations	June 3 and 10, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Assertive Communication.....	June 12, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
E-mail Effectiveness and Etiquette.....	June 26, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Individual and Professional Enrichment Series

Conflict Management	April 25, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Employee Performance Review	May 8, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Improve Your Time Management Skills	May 23, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Employee Performance Review	June 20, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Management and Supervisory Series

Interview Skills for Managers	May, 8:30 – 12:30 p.m.
Recognition Ideas for Employees	May 9, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Flight from SAVO: A Supervisory Skills Game	May 30, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Coaching Strategies	June 18, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
How to Motivate and Inspire Employees	June 27, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Seminars by Business Health Services

Building a Respectful Workplace: Promoting Positive Interactions	May 20, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Balancing Work and Family Life: Walking the Tightrope	June 24, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

All programs are offered at no charge. For additional information and registration details, contact Sukanya Bora, Training and Development Manager, 301-846-1129, or boras@mail.nih.gov

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News & Views Suggestions

Do you have information to share with or ideas to suggest for *News & Views* readers? Please send your information, articles, or ideas to Maritta Grau, Managing Editor (graump@mail.nih.gov).

News & Views Deadlines

July issue.....	May 21
October issue.....	August 21
January issue.....	November 21

Important Telephone Numbers

Ethics Hotline	1-800-760-4332
Human Resources Department.....	301-846-1146
Benefits Questions, HR Department	301-846-1146
SAIC Stock Programs.....	1-800-785-7764
	or 858-826-4703
SAIC Stock Recorded Information.....	1-888-245-0104

Dates to Note

Spring Research Festival.....	May 14-15
Memorial Day: NCI-Frederick closed	May 26
Take Your Child To Work Day.....	July 30

SAIC Stock

SAIC's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SAI."

41747