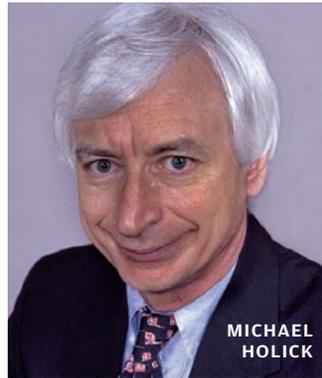


Awards Honor Clinical Researchers

Michael Holick received the 18th Annual Award for Excellence in Clinical Research. Holick is a professor of medicine, physiology, and biophysics at Boston University Medical Center. The award was presented at the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) Program Directors Meeting, held March 16-17 in Washington, D.C. The GCRC Program Directors Association conferred the award on behalf of the Jane and Charles Pak Foundation, which funds the award to recognize outstanding clinical investigators who have conducted studies at GCRCs within the previous decade.

Holick received the \$5,000 award for his pioneering contributions in the basic science of vitamin D. After closely evaluating vitamin D in whole and skim milk, Holick and his colleagues determined that vitamin D also could be made available in orange juice. This important study influenced Minute Maid and Tropicana in fortifying their orange juice with vitamin D. Holick was also the first to isolate and identify the biologically active form of vitamin D3. He participated in the chemical synthesis of 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D3



MICHAEL
HOLICK



SYLVIA
FRAZIER-
BOWERS

and demonstrated that its use was safe and effective for treatment of psoriasis in children and adults. Holick also pioneered research on the photobiology of vitamin D and established guidelines for sensible sun exposure for bone health.

At the Clinical Research 2006 meeting, held in tandem with the GCRC Program Directors Meeting, **Sylvia Frazier-Bowers** of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill received the \$2,000 GCRC Outstanding Trainee Award. Her research focuses on the genetic basis of craniofacial and tooth disorders.

Frazier-Bowers, an orthodontist, was recognized for an abstract she presented on

mandibular prognathism, a disorder characterized by an overgrown lower jaw or a deficient upper jaw. The trait is believed to develop due to both hereditary and environmental factors. Frazier-Bowers performed a genome-wide scan in four families with the condition. Her results indicated that the trait is largely under strict genetic control with distinct sub-phenotypes.

Frazier-Bowers is an assistant professor in the department of orthodontics at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry. She received her D.D.S. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and holds a Ph.D. in genetics and molecular biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NCRR Tracks State of Clinical Research Informatics

As part of its clinical research activities, NCRR has contracted the MITRE Corporation to produce clinical research informatics “snapshots,” brief reports describing the state-of-the-art in information technology for clinical research. Over a two-year period, MITRE will investigate current informatics used for clinical research, propose and analyze approaches,

monitor trends, and track the evolution of related technologies in both public and private sectors. The reports are expected to help guide strategic planning efforts across NIH and among its grantees. Information, best practices, analysis, and recommendations will be posted monthly at http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/informatics_reports.asp.

Nicotine Expert Receives Award

Nicotine expert **Neal Benowitz** has received the Oscar B. Hunter Memorial Award in Therapeutics, which honors scientists for their outstanding contributions in drug research, patient care, and teaching. Benowitz, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, received the award at the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, held in Baltimore on March 11.

He has studied the human pharmacology of nicotine, including nicotine addiction, through the university’s GCRC. “I did my very first studies on the GCRC in about 1975, and the GCRC has been the site of virtually all of my research since,” says Benowitz. Benowitz was the senior sci-

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entific editor of the U.S. Surgeon General's 1988 report on nicotine addiction, which has been used as a blueprint around the world in developing tobacco control policies.

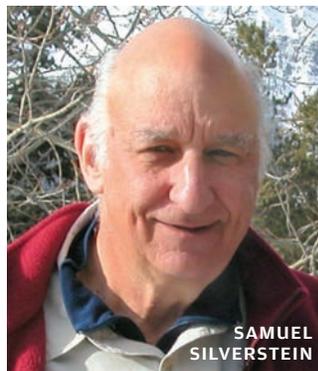
Web Portal for Animal Resources

NCRR plans to create a Web-based portal to integrate and coordinate use of all NIH-supported animal and related biological resources. This Animal Information Center will enhance access and retrieval of information from existing model databases and accommodate the addition of new ones. "Resources for translational science are needed to quickly and effectively move between basic discovery and clinical studies," says Harold Watson, health scientist administrator for NCRR's

Division of Comparative Medicine. "There has never been a greater need for easily accessible and broadly informed disease modeling systems to guide the translational researcher to and through the preclinical studies," he adds.

To plan the design of the portal, invited experts met on the NIH campus, March 6-7, for the workshop "Navigating the Translational Researcher Through a Complex of Animal and Biological Resources." Participants identified the portal's user community and its needs and described the range of expertise and technology needed to staff and support the resource. Invited workshop members included animal researchers, clinical and translational science researchers, resource managers and developers, industry representatives, and NIH intramural and extramural staff.

For more information on the workshop, visit www.ncrrworkshops.com/navigating/index.aspx.



Science Educator Honored

Samuel Silverstein, physiology professor at Columbia University, has received the Bruce Alberts Award for Excellence in Science Education from the American Society for Cell Biology. The award is bestowed for innovative and sustained activities in science education.

Silverstein directs the university's Summer Research Program for Science Teachers, which is funded through a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA). The project mentors middle and high school teachers in the New York metropolitan area through two summers of intensive eight-week sessions that provide hands-on experiences in Columbia's research laboratories.

Throughout the program, teachers acquire in-depth knowledge of a scientific discipline—such as biology, organic chemistry, or medical sciences—and master several technologies employed in the discipline. The program allows teachers to translate what they have learned to the classroom and, ultimately, to transmit the practice of scientific research to their students.

PHOTO BY RALPH MILLER

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