Jane Henney, deputy commissioner for operations, FDA, and Kenneth Olden finalize an interagency agreement between NCTR and NIEHS.

the toxicology testing efforts of the National Toxicology Program, which is made up of NIEHS, NCTR, and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. The agreement speeds up the studies of chemicals nominated by the FDA and tailors the study protocols to the needs of FDA. "The National Toxicology Program is at the forefront of our national initiative on prevention of disease, and this agreement furthers NTP's ability to accomplish its goals," says Olden.

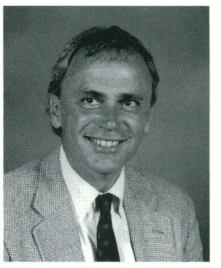
NTP goals that will be better attained through the new agreement include shortening the time between nomination of a chemical and the time testing begins; increasing the ability to predict the carcinogenicity of a particular chemical; more fully utilizing NCTR's laboratory and support facilities; and providing information on study results in a more timely manner. Under the new agreement, the first chemical to be studied for its toxicological properties is chloral hydrate, a chemical intermediary in the production of chlorinated pesticides, which is also used as a short-term anxiety suppressant.

NIEHS Mammalian Development Workshops

The NIEHS has recently concluded a series of workshops, "Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Mammalian Development." The objective of the workshops was to review progress being made in the rapidly advancing field of molecular biology and relate it to developmental toxicology and human development. The workshops also served as the groundwork for upcoming events, including a symposium on "Female Germ Cell Development and Toxicology," to be conducted as part of the Annual Meeting of the Environmental Mutagen Society in Norfolk, Virginia, in April 1993. In addition, the National Academy of Sciences plans to hold a symposium this summer that will present an expanded scientific program built around the important findings and research recommendations of each of the six NIEHS workshops. It is anticipated that the recommendations from these workshops will be developed into future initiatives of the NIEHS, EPA, and other federal agencies. Information about the recent NIEHS workshops can be obtained from Jack Bishop, (919) 541-1876.

NIEHS Hosts Televised Earth Day Symposium

Approximately 300 high school students and accompanying teachers visited NIEHS April 20 for a unique Earth Day event featuring presentations by 18 distinguished environmental science and law professionals. Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, home of NIEHS, is a world center for environmental research. Nearby Duke University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and North Carolina Central University participated in this event, along with a number of research organizations in Re-search Triangle Park. The Earth Day symposium was designed to inspire interest in environmental careers and science education. Kenneth Olden, director of NIEHS, said, "Environmental health science must reach out to young students, to encourage them to once again enter science careers. Minorities and women must understand that science offers them career opportunities with a potential for leadership positions. Education is the key—that's our major message to all students." An Earth Day Special television program based on features about several of the presenters was produced for broadcast to North Carolina classrooms April 22. In addition, video of all presentations are available to educators, along with a lesson plan prepared by teachers participating in the event. A number of organizations involved in environmental concerns exhibited on the NIEHS mall during the lunch break. Television for the event was produced by North Carolina State University Broadcast Services through the NCSU College of Forestry Resources, co-coordinators of the event. The event was coordinated and sponsored at NIEHS by the Office of the Scientific Director. John McLachlan, scientific director, has been central in developing a science education outreach program at NIEHS.



Dr. John McLachlan

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