NIEHS

**Grantees meet.** New environmental justice research grantees include (left to right) Dianne Quigley, Carlos Porras, Katsi Cook, and Michael Belliveau.

tants, health care providers, and environmental health researchers. The program seeks to ensure that the communities involved have a demonstrable role in identifying and defining problems and risks related to environmental health and in shaping future research approaches to such problems.

The purposes of this orientation meeting were to share information among grantees and NIEHS staff, to allow grantees to learn of common or similar approaches in their projects, and to begin developing a communication network. Following a welcome and introduction by Anne Sassaman, director of extramural research and training, and Allen Dearry, program administrator, the principal investigator of each grant described his or her project, including its history, objectives, and methods.

Dianne Quigley at Clark University, in Worcester, Massachusetts, in collaboration with Native Americans for a Clean Environment and Citizen Alert Native American Program, is working to increase the awareness of Native American communities exposed to radiation contamination in their environment. They are designing and implementing a plan for risk management and prevention at the Western Shoshone Nation near the Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site and at the Cherokee Nation at Sequoyah Fuels, Oklahoma, a uranium processing facility that was in operation for 23 years. Education modules of two types will be implemented: community modules, created exclusively by Native American collaborators; and health education modules, created by scientists and health care provider trainers. Relevant materials and strategies will be shared with other Native American communities.

Katsi Cook at The State University of New York, Albany, in collaboration with St. Regis Mohawk Health Services, is designing community-based strategies for environmental health education, outreach, and training in the Akwesasne Mohawk community, which is adjacent to a Superfund site in the Great Lakes Basin–St. Lawrence River watershed. Environmental hazards have resulted from the rapid transition from an agricultural to an industrial environment. Cook is a nurse midwife and a member of the Mohawk community, and the project is implemented, evaluated, and disseminated explicitly through community members.

Michael Belliveau and Carlos Porras from Citizens for a Better Environment, in collaboration with the Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program and the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at UCLA and the Community Health Foundation, aim to educate community members and health care providers, promote adoption of pollution prevention measures, and establish a community-based strategy for reducing community and worker exposure to environmental pollutants in southeast Los Angeles, a highly industrialized area home to a low-income population, which is approximately 90% Hispanic and Latino. A major objective of this project is to analyze data to confirm the list of environmental pollutants already known and to determine whether gaps exist in the data. Environmental health issues will be determined and addressed. Education of community members and medical care providers will be emphasized. Sources of health hazards will be identified, and strategies will be developed to attempt exposure reduction.

## Grant Writing Workshop for Environmental Justice

An instructional workshop for writing a grant application in response to request for applications (RFA) ES 95-002, "Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication," was held at NIEHS on December 9. This RFA is a reannouncement of the initiative that resulted in three awards earlier this year (see previous story). At this workshop, NIEHS staff discussed the fundamentals of how to write an NIH grant application. Open to the public, the workshop attracted 30 participants, who spent the day learning about this RFA and the NIH grant process.

Allen Dearry, program administrator, explained the mission of NIEHS, particularly as it relates to environmental justice, and then addressed this RFA specifically. The objectives, eligibility criteria, and review process were described. The three current grantees, Dianne Quigley, Katsi Cook, and Michael Belliveau, then presented their projects and discussed how they put together successful applications for the first round of competition. They discussed personnel interactions among community members, health care providers, and researchers, and provided the audience with some helpful hints on how to bring people together for successful collaborations. Diane Becker, director of the Center for Health Promotion at Johns Hopkins University, and a member of the Special Review Committee that evaluated the applications submitted in the first competition, explained her impressions of the review process. The review committee is composed of a 1:1:1 ratio of community representatives, health care providers, and environmental health scientists. After the presentations Dearry led the group through a lesson in filling out a PHS 398, the official NIH grant application form. Carolyn Winters, grants management specialist, reviewed budgetary considerations and needed assurances and certifications. General questions and answers and individual discussions rounded out the session.