Pitt Opens Center for Vaccine Research

By Clare Collins

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, initially awarded Pitt $17.5 million in 2003 for construction of the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, one of only 13 centers of its kind to receive NIAID funding and the second of this elite group to open nationally. Supplemental NIAID funding of $4.1 million and University support of $7.2 million increased the total construction budget to $28.8 million. In funding the lab, NIAID cited the nation’s lack of biosafety laboratories as a significant barrier to progress in biodefense research.

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg said, “Just as Jonas Salk and his Pitt team of researchers provided the polio vaccine to the world, the new Center for Vaccine Research will further our University’s commitment to developing new interventions to prevent infectious diseases—interventions that have the potential to significantly improve global health.”

“We are gratified by the confidence and support NIAID has shown us in our commitment to this essential facility,” said Arthur S. Levine, Pitt senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine. “The Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, in concert with existing resources at the University of Pittsburgh, will enable us to greatly accelerate the development of vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics for viruses and other infectious agents.”

The CVR is directed by Donald S. Burke, dean of Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Jonas Salk Professor of Global Health, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Director of Public Health. The center will employ approximately 150 faculty, staff, and laboratory personnel and will complement other ongoing research at the BST3 in structural biology, computational biology, genomics and proteomics, neurobiology, and drug discovery.

“With most epidemics, history has shown us that we are not helpless,” Burke said. “With the opening of the CVR, we will be better able to create new methods and strategies to keep potential epidemics under control and minimize their impact.”

Located within the CVR, the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory is a biosafety level-3 facility dedicated to research on agents that cause naturally occurring and emerging infections, as well as potential agents of bioterrorism. The labs within the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory are specially designed and constructed using the strictest federal standards, incorporating special engineering and design features to prevent microorganisms from being released into the environment. The 27,300-square-foot facility is available to assist national, state, and local public health efforts in the event of an infectious disease emergency, including an act of bioterrorism.

The CVR also houses the Vaccine Research Laboratory (VRL), which occupies 16,000 square feet and includes dedicated biosafety laboratories, specialized instrumentation rooms, offices, and conference rooms. The VRL offers an interactive research environment by providing access to microarray, robotic and mass spectrometry instrumentation. Much of the lab’s work will focus on understanding the variability of viruses and their ability to change over time, and learning how to recognize different viral strains.
Pitt's Department of English and The Pitt News will host a panel discussion titled “How to Get an Internship in the Media - PR World: Meet the Professionals,” from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in the William Pitt Union's Kurzman Room.

In addition to the panel discussion, the annual Al McDowell Memorial Scholarship, named in memory of the Pittsburgh broadcasting pioneer and 1952 Pitt School of Arts and Sciences graduate, will be presented to a Pitt undergraduate student in the English department's fiction writing program.

For more information on this free public event, contact Writing Internship Coordinator Caren Marcus at 412-624-1737 or caren@pitt.edu. Information about the moderator and the discussion's panelists follows.

Moderator

David Shribman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette executive editor, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in 1995 for his coverage of Washington and the American political scene. Before coming to Pittsburgh, he was the Washington, D.C., bureau chief of The Boston Globe. He also worked at various positions for The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Star, and The Buffalo Evening News. His column, “National Perspective,” is syndicated to more than 50 papers nationally, and he is a contributing editor of Fortune magazine.

Panelists

Frank Gottlieb, news director for KQV Radio, served as a broadcast specialist with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He has been working at KQV for 22 years and was WTAE-TV's first intern. Mark Gruetze, administrative editor of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, oversees newspaper recruiting, compiles annual budgets, and runs the metro desk on Sundays. A journalist for 35 years, Gruetze was the managing editor of The Marietta Times and an assistant managing editor of the Danville, Ill., Commercial-News before coming to Pittsburgh in 1992. David Johnson, coanchor for WPXI-TV Channel 11 News, is an award-winning journalist who has covered major national stories, including the 9/11 tragedy of United Flight 93 and the rescue of the Quecreek miners. Johnson is part of the longest-running news anchor team in Pittsburgh.

Pam O'Brien, associate director of Pitt's Public and Professional Writing Program (PPW), worked as vice president of an advertising agency for 15 years before coming to Pitt's English department. A visiting lecturer at Pitt, O'Brien is responsible for supervising PPW interns.


James Warren is managing editor of features for the Chicago Tribune and a political analyst, appearing regularly on Fox News Channel, MSNBC, and CNBC. Warren joined the Tribune in 1984 as a reporter specializing in labor affairs before being named the national media reporter. Washington Magazine named him one of Washington, D.C.'s 50 most influential journalists.

Pitt's Rediker to Give Presentation, Sign Copies Of His New Book Oct. 4

Thirty years of research in maritime archives led the groundwork for Pitt Professor of History Marcus Rediker's new book, The Slave Ship: A Human History (Viking Penguin, 2007), to be released Oct. 4, with a presentation and book signing to be held at 6 p.m. that day in Pitt's Book Center. Advance registration is requested; RSVP for the free Oct. 4 event or for more information, call 412-648-1453.

In The Slave Ship, Rediker said he set out to describe “what it meant to be in a human world.” According to Rediker, what had happened on the slave ship informed what resulted on land. “It was a social and cultural process that changed people,” and the repercussions from that process still resonate today, he explained.

From the book’s jacket: “This is a tale of tragedy in labor, and the nation’s economy, politics, culture, and capitalism was made.”

Pitt Researchers to Present Latest Findings, Treatments for Late-Life Depression, Bereavement, and Dementia

Depression, delirium and dementia are common among older adults and are associated with decreased quality of life, disability, and premature death from both suicide and illness. To address this need for making those who care for the elderly aware of the latest research and treatment developments, the Department of Psychiatry at Pitt’s School of Medicine will hold a day-long educational conference for psychiatrists, primary care physicians, gerioniologists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, consulting pharmacists, and other professionals who care for older adults. The seminar, titled “Late-Life Depression, Dementia and Bereavement: Integration of Research, Teaching, and Clinical Care,” will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Oct. 5 in Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall.

Conference speakers will address recent advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of depression, Alzheimer’s disease, and other dementias in late life. They also will discuss the challenges of recognizing and managing these disorders in nursing homes, rehabilitation clinics, and other community settings.

For more information and to register for the seminar, visit www.psc.pitt.edu/conf/2007/MS50Brochure.htm.

—Megan Grate

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An ongoing series highlighting University of Pittsburgh history

October 1957—Pitt acquires Salk Hall, then known as the Municipal Hospital, from the City of Pittsburgh for $1.3 million. (Used foundations provided the funding.) Initially, the building’s upper floors serve as a residence for students. But in 1961-62, with funding from a state grant, the University renovated Salk Hall to house the dentistry and pharmacy schools.

Between 1949 and 1954, The Pitt research team assembled by Jonas Salk developed its triumphant polio vaccine in the basement of the hospital.
**Peter Pan, the High-Flying Broadway Musical**

Pitt-Johnstown’s Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Oct. 4

- **Marvin’s Fables**
  - 8 p.m., through Oct. 2
  - Te Huin Hall, 600 Penn Ave., downtown, 412-392-4819, www.pittsburghopera.com

- **Celebrating the Roots of Latin American Music and Dance Rhythms**
  - 4:30 p.m. workshop and 8 p.m. concert
  - Oct. 8, Smith Hall Lounge and Ferguson Theater, Pitt-Greensburg, www.upp.pitt.edu

A Plockin’ Good Time, 6-8 p.m.
- 4130 Liberty St., downtown, 412-685-0800, www.plockin.com

**Exhibitions**

  - Through Oct. 22

- **Powerhouse Pianists Festival**, Part III: Marilyn Nonken and Kathleen Supove

- **Lee Dolen: Art of the Crossroads of Italian Classical and Folk Traditions**, featuring baroque violinist Daniele Piersottis and keyboardist Angela Avolio
  - 412-648-7715, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr

- **Adubho Exhibitions**, Hillman Library, Green Black Cape Flycatcher, through Oct. 15

- **Maggie-Womens Hospital**, Oncology on Campus: Expressions of a Woman’s Cancer Journeys, featuring 50 works of art by cancer survivors and their loved ones, through Oct. 12, artwork displayed in the main lobby and throughout the hospital, 300 Hotchk St., Oakland


- **Digging Pitt Gallery**, Concealed Belly, featuring works by urban art designers

**Concerts**

- **Green Black-Cape Flycatcher**
  - Neuenschwander, Forum 60: Rivane Priester, 8 p.m.
  - Calvary Episcopal Church, also 2:30 p.m.
  - Pierson, 8 p.m.

- **Italian Classical and Folk Traditions**, featuring baroque violinist Daniella Supove, III: Marilyn Nonken and Kathleen Supove, 8 p.m.

- **Digging Pitt Gallery, Conceived Bully**, through Oct. 25, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr

**Lectures/Seminars/Readings**

- **The Secret History of the War on Cancer**, book launch even featuring Devra Davis, epidemiologist, director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute’s Environmental Oncology, and author of The Secret War on Cancer, 7 p.m., today, Scaife Hall’s Schenley Room


- **The Synthetic and Self-Organization of Hybrid Gold Nanocrystals**, Eugene Zibarov, professor of chemistry at Rice University, 2:30 p.m. Oct. 4, 128 Chemistry Science Center, Pitt Department of Chemistry, 412-624-6758

- **Visual and Near Infrared Emissive Nanosized Carbon Nanocomposites for Biomedical and Imaging Applications**, Polymers and Composites, 4 p.m. Oct. 4, Scale Hall Auditorium 5, McCormick Institute for Regenerative Medicine, www.mirn.pitt.edu


- **Meditation, Mechanical Simulation and its Influence on Biological Functions**, Roger D. Damm, associate head of Mechanical Engineering, noon Oct. 5, Room 3, Pitt Medical Education Grand Room, www.medicalschool.pitt.edu/median


- **The SlideTutor Project—An Intelligent Medical Training System for Visual Diagnosis**, Rebecca Crowley, Pitt assistant professor of biomedical informatics, noon Oct. 5, Scale Hall’s Lecture Room 3, Pitt Medical Education Grand Rounds, www.medicalschool.pitt.edu/median

- **The Comedy of Errors**, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5, Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., downtown, 412-431-2489, www.citytheatrecompany.org

**Wine Tasting, Oct. 3**


**Miscellaneous**

- **Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses**
  - **Anita Saleh**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
  - **Victor Wold**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs


- **Heritage Farm Market**, 3-6 p.m. every Friday through Nov. 16, Schmidt Street between Aroord Street and Liberty Avenue, Oakland Business Improvement District, 412-683-6245, www.onlyinOakland.com

- **Pitt Film Series**

- **Pitt Playwrights Festival**
  - 412-648-7715, www.chem.pitt.edu


**Theater/Opera/Dance**

- **Always...Patsy Cline**, by Todd Jackson, through Oct. 6, 505 Penn Ave., downtown, Pittsburgh CLO at Calder University Square, 412-456-6666, www.pittsburghcdo.org

- **Not Here**, 7-9 p.m. every Thursday through Oct. 25, 412-269-2203, www.pittsburghsymphony.org

**In Service, Authoritative Narratives from Iraq to Pittsburgh**

- **Pitt Business Administration**
  - 412-392-4819, www.pitt.edu

- **Pitt Career Services**
  - 412-392-4819, www.pitt.edu
Pitt to Host Encountering New Worlds of Adoption: The Second International Conference on Adoption and Culture, Oct. 11-14

Conference, coordinated by Pitt Professor Marianne Novy, will feature more than 80 speakers

By Patricia Lomando White

Encountering New Worlds of Adoption: The Second Annual Conference on Adoption and Culture, to be held at Pitt Oct. 11-14, will explore how adoption is redefining family, parenthood, and identity, and how adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents are redefining adoption.

The conference will feature three keynote addresses and three film presentations. Among the 80 speakers will be literary critics, writers, anthropologists, philosophers, historians, sociologists, legal theorists, psychologists, filmmakers, and activists from Spain, Norway, China, Russia, England, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States, among other countries.

Marianne Novy—Pitt Professor of English; cochair of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption, Identity, and Kinship; editor of that organization’s newsletter, and herself an adoptee—will convene the conference. She is the author of Reading Adoption: Family and Difference in Fiction and Drama (University of Michigan Press, 2005).

The conference will cover such issues as transnational and transracial adoption, open adoption, adoptee identity, legislation about birth records, same-sex and special-needs adoption, relinquishment, blog dialogues between adoptive and birth mothers, and adoption novels and history.

Information on conference presenters and sessions follows.

Novelist Emily Prager will deliver the first keynote address, titled “Adoption—A Two-Way Street,” at 8 p.m. Oct. 11 in 501 Cathedral of Learning. Also a humor writer and award-winning journalist, Prager is author of Wudu Diary: On Taking My Adopted Child Back to Her Hometown in China (Random House, 2001).

Dorothy Roberts, Kirkland and Ellis Professor of Law at Northwestern University, will present the Oct. 12 keynote address, titled “Adoption and Culture: The Difference Politics Makes,” at 4:45 p.m. in 125 Frick Fine Arts Building. Roberts is author of the award-winning Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty and Shattered Bonds (Pantheon, 1997).

Filmmaker Jean Strauss will show and discuss his Paul Robeson Award-winning film, Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America (2001), at 8 p.m. Oct. 13 in 125 Frick Fine Arts Building. Bertelsen was transracially adopted in the 1970s, and in this film, as the writer and director, he explores his own experience; that of his 11-year-old nephew, also transracially adopted; and that of a Midwestern White couple adopting an African American child in 2001.

Oct. 12 morning plenary session topics will be “International Adoption” and “Adoption and Its Challenges.” Speakers will include Barbara Yngvesson, professor of anthropology at Hampshire College; Sara Dorow, professor of anthropology at the University of Alberta, Canada, and author of Transnational Adoption: A Cultural Economy of Race, Gender, and Kinship (New York University Press, 2006); Sandra Patton-Imani, associate professor at Drake University and author of BirthMarks: Transracial Adoption in Contemporary America (New University Press, 2000; Signe Howell, professor of anthropology at the University of Oslo, Norway, and the author of The Kinning of Foreigners: Transnational Adoption in a Global Perspective (Berghahn, 2006); Judith Schachter (Modell), professor of anthropology and history at Carnegie Mellon University; and author of Kinship With Strangers: Adoption and Interpreitations of Kinship in American Culture (University of California Press, 1994) and A Sealed and Secret Kinship (Berghahn, 2002); and Sally Haslanger, philosopher of philosophy and women’s studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and coeditor of Adoption Matters: Philosophical and Feminist Essays (Cornell University Press, 2005).

Speakers will include the award-winning filmmaker Phil Bertelsen, who will show and discuss his film, Forward? Beyond Our Fantasies and Fears (2005), which illuminates the debate on adoption and its challenges. Speakers will include Barbara Yngvesson, professor of anthropology at Hampshire College; Sara Dorow, professor of anthropology at the University of Alberta, Canada, and author of Transnational Adoption: A Cultural Economy of Race, Gender, and Kinship (New York University Press, 2006); Sandra Patton-Imani, associate professor at Drake University and author of BirthMarks: Transracial Adoption in Contemporary America (New University Press, 2000; Signe Howell, professor of anthropology at the University of Oslo, Norway, and the author of The Kinning of Foreigners: Transnational Adoption in a Global Perspective (Berghahn, 2006); Judith Schachter (Modell), professor of anthropology and history at Carnegie Mellon University; and author of Kinship With Strangers: Adoption and Interpreitations of Kinship in American Culture (University of California Press, 1994) and A Sealed and Secret Kinship (Berghahn, 2002); and Sally Haslanger, philosopher of philosophy and women’s studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and coeditor of Adoption Matters: Philosophical and Feminist Essays (Cornell University Press, 2005).

Other plenary sessions will include anthropologists’ discussions of international adoption and readings by adoption memoirists.

All sessions are free to Pitt faculty, staff, students, and those of cosponsoring institutions: Carnegie Mellon, Carlow, Chatham, and Duquesne universities. The plenary sessions are free to the public, but the nonplenary sessions have a $50-$75 registration fee. Continuing Education Units are available through Pitt’s School of Social Work. For more information and a complete list of conference sponsors, visit www.english.pitt.edu/events/AdoptionandCulture/sponsors.html.

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of the Pitt Chronicle will be published Oct. 8. The deadline for submitting information is 5 p.m. Oct. 3. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings events calendar (see page 3) should be submitted to chron@pitt.edu. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items also may be faxed to 412-624-4895 or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033.