The NIDDK was established as the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases in 1950 by U.S. President Harry S. Truman. Sixty years and four name changes later, one thing has never changed: the Institute’s commitment to improving health through high-quality research. In 2010, NIDDK celebrated the rich history of advances made possible through the federal investment in research in our laboratories here in Bethesda, MD, and in Phoenix, AZ, and by grantees around the U.S. and beyond.

**NIDDK’S SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM: CELEBRATES PAST, LOOKS TO FUTURE**

On Tuesday, September 21, 2010, NIDDK hosted, “Unlocking the Secrets of Science: Building the Foundation for Future Advances,” a scientific symposium to highlight research advances made possible, in part, with NIDDK support. NIDDK director, Dr. Griffin Rodgers, welcomed all in attendance to what promised to be an exciting day of cutting-edge scientific presentations. Former NIDDK directors Dr. Lester B. Salans (Mount Sinai Medical School and Forest Laboratories), Dr. Phillip Gorden (NIDDK), and Dr. Allen M. Spiegel (Albert Einstein College of Medicine) chaired scientific sessions on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; Nutrition, Hematology, and Urology; and Endocrinology, Education, Outreach, and the NIDDK Intramural Research Program. Each session featured three presentations from distinguished scientists spanning NIDDK’s research mission.

**Session 1: Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases**
- C. Ronald Kahn, M.D., *Insulin Resistance and Metabolic Disease: An Integrative Systems Biology Approach*
- Jeffrey Gordon, M.D., *Our Human Gut Microbiome: Dining in with Trillions of Fascinating Friends*
- Eric Neilson, M.D., *The Origin of Fibroblasts During Tissue Fibrogenesis*

**Session 2: Nutrition, Hematology, and Urology**
- Jeffrey Friedman, M.D., *The New Biology of Obesity*
- Nancy Andrews, M.D., *New Roles for the Classical Transferrin Receptor*
- John McConnell, M.D., *Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia: It’s Not as Simple as We Thought*

**Session 3: Endocrinology, Education, Outreach, and Intramural**
- Jeffrey Flier, M.D., *Resistance to Action: Hormonal and Decanal*
- James R. Gavin, III, M.D., *Transforming Science into Educational Programs: NIDDK and 60 Years of Outreach*
- Gary Felsenfeld, Ph.D., *Chromatin Boundaries, Insulators, and the Epigenetic Regulation of Gene Expression*
One way the Institute is building on its accomplishments is by nurturing early career scientists, 12 of whom were recognized and selected to receive the NIDDK 60th Anniversary Early Career Investigator/Scholar Awards for 2010. By demonstrating leadership, creativity, and excellence in their pursuit of scientific knowledge, they are building on the foundation of NIDDK research in the past and achieving the progress of medical research in the future. Working on the NIH campus and at grantee institutions throughout the U.S., these men and women represent the promise of a future that will continue to benefit the health and longevity of generations of people throughout our Nation and the world.

One clear message took shape as the day-long symposium came to a close, research has laid the groundwork for today’s discoveries, and NIDDK looks forward to building on this progress to propel scientific discovery in the years ahead toward improving the Nation’s health.

**NIDDK: 60 YEARS OF ADVANCING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE HEALTH**

The publication *NIDDK: 60 Years of Advancing Research to Improve Health* celebrates the Institute’s accomplishments over the past 60 years in supporting and conducting research on some of the most common, chronic, and costly diseases affecting people in this country and around the world, as well as on diseases and disorders that are less widespread but nonetheless devastating in their impacts. Additional information on this compendium can be found here: www2.niddk.nih.gov/AboutNIDDK/ReportsAndStrategicPlanning/SixtiethAnniversary/
Members of Congress, congressional staffers, and representatives of many scientific and patient advocacy organizations celebrated the 60th anniversary with a congressional breakfast on Capitol Hill. The coalition presented NIDDK Distinguished Scientist Awards to two NIDDK grantees and a former NIDDK director. Dr. David Nathan (Massachusetts General Hospital) was recognized for his leadership and vision in NIDDK-supported diabetes research. Dr. Jeffrey Gordon (Washington University in St. Louis) was cited for his groundbreaking work on the role of bacteria residing in the human digestive tract in health and disease. Dr. Phillip Gorden, a former NIDDK director, was honored for both his leadership as NIDDK director and for his research on insulin action and insulin resistance in diabetes. In addition, the current NIDDK director, Dr. Griffin Rodgers, presented the NIDDK Early Career Investigator Award to Dr. Theo Heller (NIDDK Liver Diseases Branch) for his research on basic and clinical aspects of viral hepatitis.

Dr. Griffin Rodgers (l) chats with (from l) Ms. Kim Hollander and Mr. Brett Rosen of the Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation and U.S. House Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY).

From left: Drs. David Nathan, Jeffrey Gordon, Theo Heller, and Phillip Gorden

Photo: Bill Branson
EVENTS HELD IN 2010

Several professional research societies partnered with NIDDK to celebrate the 60th anniversary by holding special events during their annual meetings.

May 1  American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

May 2  American Gastroenterological Association

May 31  American Urological Association

June 19-22  The Endocrine Society

June 26  American Diabetes Association

July 9-10  International Society on Hypertension in Blacks

July 14  Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior

Aug. 2  National Medical Association

Aug. 7  Association of American Indian Physicians

Aug. 22  American Chemical Society

Sept. 21  NIDDK’s Research Symposia

Oct. 8 & 10  The Obesity Society

Oct. 15-19  American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

Oct. 29-Nov. 2  American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

Nov. 2-6  American Society of Human Genetics

Nov. 16-21  American Society of Nephrology

Dec. 4-7  American Society of Hematology

An NIDDK symposium on diabetes and obesity, held on June 26 at the American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions in Orlando, FL. Photo: Lagniappe Photography, courtesy of the American Diabetes Association

From left: Dr. Charles N. Rotimi, National Human Genome Research Institute; Dr. Suzanne Nicholas, University of California Los Angeles; Dr. Lawrence Agodoa, NIDDK; Dr. Griffin Rodgers, NIDDK; and Dr. Shawna Nesbitt, president of the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB); at the July 9-10 annual ISHIB meeting in Arlington, VA. Photo: Courtesy of the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks

A special NIDDK 60th anniversary symposium held during the 52nd annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology in Orlando, FL. From left: Dr. Nancy Andrews, Duke University; Dr. Alan Schechter, NIDDK; Dr. Griffin Rodgers, NIDDK; and Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky, Stony Brook University. Photo: Armando Solares, courtesy of the American Society of Hematology