

MBL Monthly



January 2002 • vol. 11, no. 1

MBL Trustee Lends Expert Advice to Anthrax, AIDS, and Pneumonia Vaccine Development Programs



Porter Anderson

Marine Biological Laboratory Trustee Dr. Porter W. Anderson, Jr. of Key Largo, Florida, is lending his expertise in microbiology to help three separate research programs develop vaccines to combat anthrax, AIDS, and pneumococcal pneumonia.

Anderson, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Rochester Medical Center, developed an important vaccine to prevent bacterial meningitis in young children. The vaccine was awarded FDA approval and was introduced into clinical practice in 1990. In 1996, Anderson was a co-recipient of the prestigious Lasker Award and also the Pasteur Award for his work on developing the vaccine.

As the threat of anthrax gripped the nation this fall, Anderson sat on a panel of vaccine study experts to advise the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) Anthrax Vaccine Program. Developed to address the safety and efficacy of the U.S. FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine, the program is looking to the experts for advice on the design of their planned clinical trials on primate subjects. In particular, the CDC is seeking guidance on how the results from these animal studies can be correlated with results from human clinical trials.

In addition to advising the CDC, Anderson also participated in the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation's AIDS Vaccine Immunology Workshop in October. Anderson moderated a session on vaccine-induced responses to pathogens in infants in which he and his colleagues looked at what is known from other childhood vaccines to better understand development and testing of potential HIV vaccines in infants and children.

Continued, page 2

MBL Trustees Elect New Members

Five new Board members were elected at the November 10, 2001 MBL Trustees meeting. Margaret C. Bowles of Woods Hole, MA, Martha W. Cox of Hobe Sound, FL, Walter E. Massey of Atlanta, GA, Marcia C. Morris of Boston, MA, and Gerald Weissmann, M.D., of New York, NY are all members of the incoming Class of 2006. They will serve a four-year term.

John E. Dowling, Sheldon J. Segal, Mary B. Conrad, and Thomas S. Crane were re-elected to serve as President of the Corporation, Chairman of the Board, Treasurer, and Clerk, respectively.

Margaret C. Bowles has a degree in Modern European History from Bryn Mawr College. She is an editor and science writer and produces the MBL Ecosystems Center's annual report as well as publications for the U.S. Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (USJGOFS) Planning and Data Management Office. She is an active member of the Woods Hole community and a Director and Secretary of the Clowes Fund, which was established by her grandfather, George H.A. Clowes, Sr.

Martha W. Cox is a graduate of the Walnut Hill School in Boston and the Emma Willard School and Bennett Junior College, both in New York. She is on the Board of Trustees at the Walnut Hill School, the Neighborhood Club in Michigan, and the Freedom Institute in New York. Mrs. Cox has done extensive fundraising for the

Science News

From the Center for the Advancement of Studies of the Space Life Sciences (CASSLS)...

Wassersug, R. J. 2002. On finding the motivation for space station completion. *The American Scientist*, in press.

Naitoh, T., R.J. Wassersug, and M. Yamashita. 2001. Factors influencing the susceptibility of anurans to motion sickness. *Journal of Comparative Physiology A* 187:105-113.

Fejtek, M., and R. J. Wassersug. 2001. Effects of spaceflight and cage design on abdominal muscles of male rodents. *J. Exp. Zool.* 289(5):330-334.

Wassersug, R. J. 2001. Vertebrate biology in microgravity. *The American Scientist* 89:46-53.

Wassersug, R.J. 2001. That's entertainment. *New Scientist* 172:52-53.

From The Ecosystems Center...

Bettez, N., P. Rublee, W. J. O'Brien, and M. C. Miller. 2002. Changes in abundance, composition and controls within the plankton of a fertilized arctic lake. *Freshwater Biology* 47:303-311.

Garcia-Montiel, D.C., P.A. Steudler, M. C. Piccolo, J. M. Melillo, C. Neill and C. C. Cerri. 2001. Controls of soil nitrogen oxide emissions from forest and pastures in the Brazilian Amazon. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* 15: 1021-030.

Hamilton, S.K., J. L. Tank, D. F. Raikow, W. F. Wollheim, B. J. Peterson, and J. R. Webster. 2001. Nitrogen uptake and transformation in a midwestern U.S. stream: A stable isotope enrichment study. *Biogeochemistry* 54:297-340.

Howarth, R. W. 2001. Hypoxia, fertilizer, and the Gulf of Mexico. *Science* 292:1485-1486.

Nadelhoffer, K. J. 2001. The impacts of nitrogen deposition on forest ecosystems. Chapter 12 in: R. F. Follett and J. L. Hatfield (eds.), *Nitrogen in the Environment: Sources, Problems, and Management*. Elsevier Science, Amsterdam, pp. 311-331.

Continued, page 2

Continued, page 2



John Helfrich GIS Facility Dedication

Family and friends of the late John Helfrich gathered in the C.V. Starr Environmental Sciences Building on January 18 to dedicate the John V.K. Helfrich, III Geographic Information Systems (GIS) facility.

John was a research assistant at The Ecosystems Center from 1975 until his death in 1998. He worked with John Hobbie on microbial ecology in Alaska, was the Center's research administrator and most recently had worked with Jerry Melillo and Dave Kicklighter on the Terrestrial Ecosystem Model (TEM).

John's background in mathematics and biology, his quantitative skills and his extraordinary ability to recall complex details about computer programs enabled him to make significant contributions to The Ecosystems Center's use of computers, especially as the use of GIS expanded.

During the MBL's Discovery Campaign, current and former staff members, friends from the community and colleagues from around the world raised \$25,000 to contribute to naming the GIS facility in John's memory.

New trustees, from page one

Cottage Hospital on Nantucket where she lives during the summer. She is also the Treasurer of the Cox Foundation, Inc., in Boston. Mrs. Cox served as an MBL Trustee in the Classes of 1997 and 2001, where she was a member of the Development and Nominating Committees and a Vice Chair of the Discovery Campaign. She lives in Hobe Sound, FL.

Walter E. Massey received an M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from Washington University, St. Louis, MO, and a B.S. in Physics/Math from Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA. He was awarded the Ford Foundation Early Admission Scholarship and entered college after the 10th grade. Dr. Massey is presently the President of Morehouse College, having held positions as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of California, Oakland, and Director of the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. Dr. Massey is the Founding Chairman of the Board for the Argonne National Laboratory/University of Chicago (ARCH) Development Corporation in Chicago, IL and is currently on the board of the A.W. Mellon Foundation, the McDonald's Corporation, the Bank of America Corporation, and the BP Amoco Corporation, in addition to several academic and educational boards. He is a past Trustee of Rockefeller University, Brown University, and Washington University and is a Visiting Committee member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and Northwestern University. Dr. Massey is a Corporation member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and has been a member of the MBL's Council of Visitors since September 2000. He and his wife have a home in Woods Hole.

Marcia C. Morris received a B.A. from Connecticut College, a J.D. from Boston University School of Law, and an M.P.A. from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. She is currently a consultant for Praecis Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. Prior to this, Ms. Morris served as Senior Vice President-Strategic Initiatives, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for the The New York Presbyterian Hospital. In addition, she held appointments as President of the Children's Group-Wholesale Division, General Counsel, Senior Vice President, and Corporate Secretary for the Stride Rite Corporation in Cambridge, MA. She also served as Associate General Counsel and Associate Counsel for the Stop & Shop Companies in Quincy, MA, and as Associate Council at the firm of Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer in Boston, MA.

Gerald Weissmann was born in Vienna, Austria. He received a B.A. from Columbia University in 1950 and his M.D. from New York University School of Medicine in 1954. He is currently a Professor of Medicine and Director at New York University School of Medicine's Biotechnology Study Center. From 1973 to 2000, he served as Director of NYU School of Medicine's Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Weissmann is on the Advisory Board of the Ellison Medical Foundation and now manages the Rockefeller and Ellison Foundation's "Undeveloped Drug Project" that will bring neglected drugs to underserved areas of the world. He was Co-Founder (with E.C. Whitehead) and Director of The Liposome Company in Princeton, NJ, from 1982 to 2000. Dr. Weissmann has a longtime association with the MBL. He served as a Trustee in the classes of 1997 and 2001 where he was the Chair of the Nominating Committee and a Vice-Chair of the Discovery Campaign. As MBL Corporation Member and Associate, Dr. Weissmann served as the MBL Annual Fund Chairman in 1993 and 1994 and is a former investigator and instructor of the Physiology course. Some of the honors and awards Dr. Weissmann has received include the Paul Klemperer Medal, New York Academy of Medicine Award in 1997; the Distinguished Investigator Award from the American College of Rheumatology in 1992, the MBL Centennial Award (with James Wyngaarden and DeWitt Stetten, Jr.) in 1988, the Lila Gruber Cancer Research award (with Emil Frei, III) in 1979, and the Alessandro Robecchi International Prize for Rheumatology in 1972. Dr. Weissmann lives in New York and has a home in Woods Hole.

Porter Anderson, from page one

Most recently, Anderson and his colleagues presented research on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* vaccines to a joint meeting of the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program.

Anderson has been a member of the MBL Corporation since 1991 and is an alumnus of the MBL's Microbiology course. In the summers, he has conducted research on sulfur-eating bacteria as a guest investigator with MBL Senior Scientist, Dr. Norman Wainwright and Research Assistant Alice Child. Born in Mississippi, Anderson received a B.A. from Emory University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He was appointed to the MBL's Board of Trustees in 1996 and is currently serving his second term.

Recent Gifts and Grants

Environmental Data Research

Institute made a contribution in the amount of \$10,000 in support of the Semester in Environmental Sciences.

The George Frederick Jewett Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$40,000 to the MBL/WHOI Library. This grant will fund a new consortium that has been formed between representatives from the American Museum of Natural History, Rockefeller University, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York Botanical Garden and the MBL/WHOI Library to acquire and share resources in the fields of genomics and bioinformatics.

The Schooner Foundation has contributed \$10,000 to the MBL unrestricted fund.

NASA awarded \$151,394 for "Linking Soil Biogeochemistry to Surface Water Chemistry in Small Drainage Basins of the Amazon." Linda Deegan is the principal investigator.

NASA awarded \$390,898 for "Biogeochemical Consequences of Agricultural Intensification in the Amazon Basin." Jerry Melillo is the principal investigator.

The Department of Energy awarded \$173,500 (first year of three-year grant) for, "Human Influences on Forest Nitrogen Budgets and their Implications for Forest Carbon Storage." Jerry Melillo is the principal investigator.

NASA awarded \$50,000 (first year of three-year grant) for "The Role of Land-Cover Change in High Latitude Ecosystems: Implications for Carbon Budget in Northern North America." Jerry Melillo is the principal investigator.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded \$99,659 (first year of five-year grant) for "IRCEB: Nitrate Uptake and Retention in Streams: Mechanisms and Effects of Human Disturbances from Stream Reaches to Landscapes." Bruce Peterson is the principal investigator.

Construction Update

MBL Facilities and Services Director, Rich Cutler reports that renovations to the third floors of Whitman (for the new Grass lab) and Lillie's Crane Wing (for the new Global Infectious Diseases Program) are underway. Renovations also continue in the Marine Resources Center, as we add lab space for an expanded aquaculture program, and in the Homestead/Administration building.

Employee News

Please welcome the following new employees:

Mary George, Administrative Assistant, Development
Rick Goetz, Senior Scientist, Marine Resources Center
Heather Haas, Postdoctoral Scientist, The Ecosystems Center
Catherine Hemmerdinger, Administrative Assistant, Communications
Robert Howarth, Adjunct Scientist, The Ecosystems Center
Beth Linnon, Special Projects Coordinator, Marine Resources Center
Laurel Moore, Research Assistant, BioCurrents Research
Bertil Olsson, Research Assistant, Bay Paul Center
Zhenwen Wan, Postdoctoral Scientist, Ecosystems Center

The following employee has transferred:

Melissa Newman, transferred from Accounts Receivable Assistant to Payroll Bookkeeper, Financial Services

Benefits Buzz

It's always something!

It happens to all of us. The issues, the questions, the problems that come up from time to time. Fortunately, there's a place to turn for help when you need it. It's Unum's LifeBalance Program: a comprehensive resource available to you and your family members, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

One toll-free call to LifeBalance can help you find solutions. Every call is answered by an experienced, masters-level consultant, who can help in a variety of ways including personalized searches and referrals.

- Are you looking for day care?
- Would you like an opinion on a legal matter?
- How about a financial question?
- Do you have a tax issue?
- Are you planning for retirement?
- Are you looking for a college or university?

LifeBalance can provide you with the information it might take you days to compile by yourself. This is a free service and one designed to provide fast and convenient answers and advise on a wide range of topics. Call toll-free any time, day or night. 1-800-854-1446 or visit www.lifebalance.net.

Emergency Storm Closings

In the rare case that the MBL has to delay or cancel work before 8 AM due to weather conditions, the following radio stations will be notified by the MBL at approximately 5:30 AM:

WCIB 101.9 FM
WMVY 92.7 FM

We have no control over the actual announcement schedule, but expect the first announcements to be made at approximately 6 AM. Lab closings or delays in openings will usually be based on the anticipated weather conditions for 8 AM in Woods Hole and the condition of the MBL parking lots specifically. For information about MBL Operations Status, call 289-7MBL.

Weather in your area may differ considerably. Therefore, on days when the MBL is open, but weather conditions are questionable, you must gauge your own safety risk based on these conditions. If you believe that conditions warrant no travel, you may exercise the MBL's liberal leave policy. All employees are required to notify their supervisor or the Human Resources Office if they are unable to report for work on a storm day.

Under the liberal leave policy, employees unable to get to work safely may take leave without pay or a vacation day (if the employee has sufficient accrued vacation time). MBL personnel are expected to report to work if conditions allow. All **"Essential Personnel Category 1: Winter Storm Conditions"** are expected to report for snow removal and clean-up.

Library News

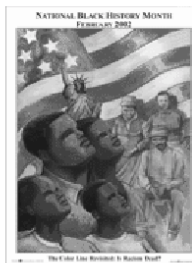
- Assistant Library Director, Eleanor Uhlinger, will co-chair a session at the AGU/ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting, February 11-15, in Honolulu, HI. Her session is titled "Scientific Communication, Publishing, and Libraries: What Lies Ahead?" For more information about the meeting, visit the website at <http://agu.org/meetings/os02top.html>.

- One of the daily tasks of a Library Assistant is to comb e-mails from other institutions, universities, and hospitals, which have free duplicate issues to offer in exchange for postage reimbursement.

Last year MBL/WHOI Library Assistant Laura Reuter found more than 100 missing journal issues using this method. Recently, she discovered a hospital in Iowa had five missing issues from 3 journals. But the busy hospital staff does not have the time to process a shipment. As fate would have it, Laura is going to be in Iowa this month visiting her family, AND, her sister is a doctor at Jenny Edmundson Hospital! Laura will be hand delivering the five missing issues.

February 2002 Calendar

For updates, please check our website, <http://www.mbl.edu/communications/publications/calendars/weekly/index.html>



Woods Hole Black History Month 2002

The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?

FEBRUARY 15 "Impact of Marine Protected Areas on the Economic Payoffs to Different Fishing Sectors"

Dr. Ussif Rashid Sumaila

Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
3:00 pm, Lillie Auditorium, MBL, Woods Hole
Reception in the Lillie lobby following the presentation.

FEBRUARY 21 "The Influence of Race and Racism on Image"

Dr. Alan Comedy

Bridgewater State College
Office of Affirmative Action / Minority Affairs
3:30 pm, Redfield Auditorium, WHOI, Water Street, Woods Hole

HARAMBEE

4:30 pm, Swope Center, MBL, Woods Hole

An ethnic potluck feast with live music.

- Storytelling by Vird Williams
- A display & sale of books, sponsored by Isiah Thomas Books
- Quilt display by Charlotte McCane
- Afrocentric handiworks by Wright Creations

Related Community Events

WHOI Peanut Butter Club Presentations

Noon, Redfield Auditorium, Water St., Woods Hole

FEBRUARY 1 Ngorongoro - Africa's Cradle of Life (60 minute documentary)

FEBRUARY 15 Artists of the Harlem Renaissance (60 minute documentary)

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Woods Hole Black History Month events are sponsored by the Marine Biological Laboratory, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Coast Guard Group Woods Hole, the U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole Field Center, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Visit our website at: <http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/outreach/WHBHMC/>

CONFERENCES:

For information about conferences, please call x7214.

February 8 - 22nd Zeiss Training Session

February 15 - 17 Yale Neuroscience

February 24 - March 2 Elderhostel

MBL Monthly is published by the Communications Office.
Editor: Pamela Clapp Hinkle
Co-editor: Beth Ready Liles
Designer: Beth Ready Liles
Questions and comments may be directed to
MBL Communications Office,
7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543
(508) 289-7423; comm@mbl.edu

Friday, February 1

Falmouth Forum Presentation

"Around the Other Round Stone Barn: The History, Restoration, and Relevance of the Hancock Shaker Community"

Mary Rentz, Past-president, Board of Trustees,
Hancock Shaker Village
Lillie Auditorium, 7:30 PM

A buffet dinner will precede the lecture. Please call the MBL Communications Office at (508) 289-7423, or e-mail, comm@mbl.edu, for information about dinner tickets.

Monday, February 4

BUMP Research Discussion

"Biochemical patterns of activity in the pharyngeal jaw musculature of Labroid fishes: Integration of form, function, and phylogeny"

Aaron N. Rice, Research Masters Candidate
Loeb 32, noon

Tuesday, February 19

Special MBL Seminar

"When to reproduce and when to perform other activities (e.g. moult, migrate)? Analyzing the optimal timing of activities over the annual cycle"

John McNamara, University of Bristol
Candle House 104, noon

Tuesday, February 19th

The Ecosystems Seminar Series

"Fungi, forests, and foodwebs: examining belowground processes with stable isotopes"

Erik Hobbie, University of New Hampshire
Whitman Auditorium, 12:15 PM

Monday, February 25

BUMP Research Discussion

Title TBA

Melinda Sweeny
Loeb 32, noon

Monday, February 25

MBL/WHOI Library Training Sessions for ISI Current Contents Connect

WHOI, Clark 509 10-11:30 AM
Lillie 103, 2-3:30 PM

Tuesday, February 26

The Ecosystems Seminar Series

"Forest nutrient cycles: Are there global assembly rules?"

Lars Hedin, Cornell University
Whitman Auditorium, 12:15 PM

Tuesday, February 26

MBL Cell Seminar Series

"Dynamics of stable microtubules; Lattice dislocation models for tubulin exchange"

Ray Stephens, Boston University and MBL
MRC 210, noon