

This fall, DIR researchers will team up with the Smithsonian Institution to give Washingtonians an inside look at cutting-edge genetic research and a chance to learn about diagnostic and therapeutic techniques still on the scientific horizon.

As part of the Smithsonian's *Campus on the Mall* lecture series, leaders in the field of

genetics from the Washington area will conduct a series of eight evening seminars designed to shed light on some of the public's most intriguing genetic concerns, as well as to pique their curiosity about some of the latest developments in genetics.

The weekly series will open on October 13 with a discussion of the Human Genome

Project, followed by a primer on the basic concepts or "the ABC's of genetics". Later topics will include the genetics and treatment of cancer, issues associated with genetic testing, mapping the human genome, and gene therapy techniques. The series is part of the DIR's Science Education and Outreach effort and will run through December 1.

Eight of the nine speakers are DIR investigators: Barbara Bowles Biesecker, Michael Blaes, Lawrence Brody, Francis Collins, Claire Francomano, Eric Green, Robert Nussbaum, and Jeffrey Trent. The ninth speaker is Dean Hamer, of the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Biochemistry. ●

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## A SUMMER OF SCIENCE

The summer of '98 will be a memorable one for the 44 high school, college, and graduate students selected to intern in nearly every DIR laboratory. For many, it's their first real exposure to the biomedical sciences—and what better place to learn than at NHGRI and NIH. The 23 females and 21 males, chosen competitively from nearly 1,000 applicants from across the U.S., applied to the DIR under NIH's Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research. The interns, many planning careers in science and medicine, work side-by-side with Genome scientists on projects ranging from the genetics of cancer to monitoring behavioral changes in a colony of mice that are models for Huntington's disease.

Now in its fifth year, the internship program has helped hundreds of students from around the country develop and hone skills for scientific investigation. The students spend at least eight

weeks working in state-of-the-art biomedical research and training facilities with guidance from DIR scientists.

In addition to laboratory experience, students attend a regular series of lectures by NIH investigators and learn about the latest discoveries in NIH Institutes. At the end of the summer, students present their work during "Poster Day," where they get a chance to share their research experience with their peers and scientists from across the NIH campus. A number of students are fortunate enough to have the results from their summer research published in leading scientific journals.

The internship program has reinforced career choices for a number of summer students, many who have gone on to complete graduate degrees and begin basic or clinical research careers in the biomedical sciences.

"The students really get an excellent introduction to bio-



medical research," says DIR scientific director, Jeffrey Trent. "In addition to participating in research, they receive a sampling of research happening at other institutes at NIH. That is what makes the internship program unique. No where else can students get access to so many experts in biomedical research on one campus." ●

[http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/DIR/VIP/summer\\_intern.html](http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/DIR/VIP/summer_intern.html)

**Mona Jabbour, a University of Virginia student, with her mentor Leslie Biesecker. Jabbour was one of over 40 students who studied in DIR labs this summer.**



April, 1997  
Tumor suppressor gene *MEN1* identified.

June, 1997  
Mutation in the alpha-synuclein gene identified in families with Parkinson's disease.

July, 1997  
Physical map of human chromosome 7 completed.



July, 1997  
Gene responsible for Niemann-Pick disease type C identified.

July, 1997  
Mouse model of NPC developed.