



July 8, 2014

NHGRI has just experienced a major transition, and so this month, I reflect on the recent retirement of Mark Guyer— NHGRI founding member, Deputy Director, and key contributor to the Human Genome Project. I also discuss the recent reorganization of the NHGRI Intramural Research Program, summer trainees at NIH and NHGRI, the completion of the *Genomics in Medicine* Lecture Series after ~2.5-year run, and a special award given to the NHGRI ENCODE team.

See details below along with other informational items that I hope will be of interest to you.

Specifically, July's *The Genomics Landscape* features stories about:

- [Mark Guyer, NHGRI Founding Member and Deputy Director, Hangs Up His Federal Hat](#)
- [Reorganization of NHGRI Intramural Research Program](#)
- [NIH/NHGRI Summer Trainees](#)
- [Genomics in Medicine Lecture Series](#)
- [DHHS Award for Distinguished Service Given to NHGRI ENCODE Team](#)

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric".

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Mark Guyer, NHGRI Founding Member and Deputy Director, Hangs Up His Federal Hat

A big change has occurred at NHGRI this summer. Founding staff member, Dr. Mark Guyer, formally retired from federal service on June 30. For most of his time at NHGRI, Mark was a key leader of the Extramural Research Program; most recently, he was the NHGRI Deputy Director. Much could be said of Mark's career in the federal government. For example, I could describe his critical role in the Human Genome Project, or name the many genomics programs that he has helped to establish and nurture, or tell you about the vital role he has played as a trusted advisor to me and other NHGRI leadership. Instead, I will use this opportunity to share some thoughts about Mark from other people that he has worked with over the course of his impressive career.



I reached out to genomics colleagues to get their perspectives on Mark and his retirement. While not surprised, I was fondly impressed by their glowing words, such as: unflappable, steady, insightful, dedicated, innovative, talented, judgment, skill, impact, pillar, invaluable, patience, leadership, diplomacy, thoughtful, empathy, wisdom, creative, and humor. Such words were put forward to describe Mark and his contributions to science, and every one of them is accurate. I was particularly struck by one comment from Dr. Rick Myers, Director of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology:

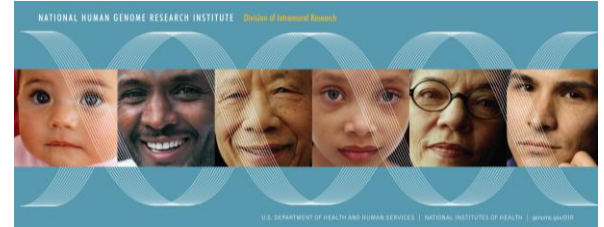
"[Mark was an] extremely important leader since the beginning, quietly injecting wisdom, strategy, and counseling to the myriad grantees and other players in the genomics field." ~Rick Myers

And this comment stood out from Dr. David Valle, Director of the Institute of Genetic Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine:

"All of us in genetics and genomics owe [Mark] a tremendous debt of gratitude for [his] dedication, wisdom, fairness, commitment to excellence and equanimity over the decades of exciting (and occasionally stressful!) growth..." ~Dave Valle

I learned some interesting NHGRI history at Mark's retirement event, which also celebrated the retirement of Jane Peterson, former Associate Director of NHGRI's Extramural Research Program. Dr. Elke Jordan, former NHGRI Deputy Director, explained that Mark was a "hard recruitment" for NHGRI, "he

Reorganization of NHGRI Intramural Research Program



The NHGRI Intramural Research Program (IRP) recently reorganized to capitalize on new scientific synergies. The reconfigured IRP consists of nine research Branches, which together reflect the evolving landscape of genetics and genomics research at NHGRI. Three senior investigators were promoted to become Branch Chiefs: Dr. Charles Rotimi, Dr. Pamela Schwartzberg, and Dr. Julie Segre. To learn more about the IRP, its structure, and the scientific research it conducts, visit genome.gov/27557206.

NIH/NHGRI Summer Trainees



The NIH Campus is teeming with trainees most of the year, but even more so in June, July, and August. In the summer, selected students from schools around the country come to Bethesda to participate in the NIH Summer Internship Program (SIP). This summer, NIH will host ~1,200 summer interns. Forty-nine of those trainees are at NHGRI, within our Intramural Research Program and our Division of Policy, Communications, and Education. In addition to gaining hands-on experience in a laboratory or office, these interns have the opportunity to participate in a variety of lectures, journal clubs, and events hosted by the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education and the NHGRI Intramural Training Office focused on careers in biomedical research. For more details

thought about it for a long time before saying ‘yes’.” What a different Institute this would be if Mark had not decided to join NHGRI! I will also share some lyrics from a song adapted and performed by NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins at Mark’s retirement event:

“...[I] was amazed by all that he knew...without him we’d been in the dark...what [he] added to science is vast...” ~Francis Collins

Mark’s guidance has also nurtured the careers of many NHGRI employees. As Dr. Elise Feingold put it, “it’s hard to overstate [his] influence on my career and the careers of all of the NHGRI extramural staff members over the years. [His] wisdom, experience, creativity, and patience... have been invaluable to us and have served as the bedrock upon which the success of NHGRI’s extramural programs has been built.”



From Left to Right: Eric Green, Jane Peterson, Mark Guyer, Elke Jordan, and Francis Collins at the retirement event for Mark and Jane.

All of these glowing comments leave little room for me to add my own thoughts. I have worked with Mark on many NHGRI projects, starting with the Human Genome Project and including many other challenging endeavors (notably the writing of the 2004 and 2011 NHGRI strategic plans). His intelligence, insightfulness, and humor have enriched my experience at NHGRI. It is a profound understatement to say that Mark Guyer’s contributions to NHGRI and genomics are immense. I am certain that his influence will be felt for quite some time.



Photo on the Left: Mark Guyer exhibiting ‘G-nome’ Institute spirit.



Photo on the Right: Eric Green, Mark Guyer, and Jane Peterson in Cape Town, South Africa at an H3Africa meeting.

A final note... While Mark did ‘hang up his federal hat’ and formally retired from federal service, he does plan to continue to

about the NIH SIP, see training.nih.gov/trainees/summer_interns. For further details about NHGRI training opportunities, see genome.gov/10005818.

Genomics in Medicine Lecture Series



The *Genomics in Medicine* lecture series co-hosted by NHGRI, Suburban Hospital, and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine culminated with a lecture by Dr. Kathleen Merikangas on June 20. The latest set of lectures featured top experts in neurology and psychiatry, with the broader goal of the ~2.5-year lecture series being to enhance healthcare professionals' understanding of the intersection between genomics and various specialized fields of medicine. For further details and links to the videos of each lecture, see genome.gov/27555276.

DHHS Award for Distinguished Service Given to NHGRI ENCODE Team



From Left to Right: Peter Good, Kathleen Sebelius, Elise Feingold, and Mike Pazin.

On June 5, the trio of NHGRI Extramural Research Program Directors who lead the Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) project received the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Former DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius presented the award to Drs. Elise Feingold, Peter Good, and Mike Pazin for their outstanding leadership of this important genomics initiative. The ENCODE project, which seeks to define the functional elements in the human genome, has now published more than 30 major studies; in addition, more than 700 scientific papers using ENCODE data have been

work part-time as a consultant on some key NIH and NHGRI programs, including the Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) project and the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) initiative. So fortunately, we are not completely losing Mark's involvement in genomics research.

For more information on Marks' achievements, see the recent NHGRI news feature at genome.gov/27558113.

published. More information about this award can be found at: hr.od.nih.gov/performance/awards/secretaryaward.htm.



NIH News of Interest

[From Uganda to NIH, to Solve a Seizure Mystery](#)

[NIH and NSF Collaborate to Accelerate Biomedical Research Innovations into the Marketplace](#)

[Highland Girl to Participate in the NIH Undiagnosed Disease Program](#)

[NIH Associate Director for Data Science on the Importance of "Data to the Biomedical Enterprise"](#)

[NIH Names New clinical Sites in Undiagnosed Diseases Network](#)

NIH Funding Opportunities

[Developing and Improving Institutional Animal Resources \(G20\)](#)

[Administrative Coordination Hub for the Pharmacogenomics Research Network \(U24\)](#)

Genomics News

[In a First, Test of DNA Finds Root of Illness](#)

[Project Uses Exome Sequencing to ID Cause of Rare Disorders](#)

[Researchers Use a New Cell Model of a Rare Disease to Develop Therapeutic Compounds](#)

[Report Offers a Primer for Doctors' Use of Clinical Genome and Exome Sequencing](#)

[As Sequencing Moves into Clinical Use, Insurers Balk](#)

[Mining the Mouth's Many Microbes](#)

[Chipping Away at the Cause Behind Rare Tumors](#)

[Longer Telomeres Linked to Risk of Brain Cancer](#)

[Researchers Hone in on Way to Predict Aggressiveness of Oral Cancer](#)

[Nanopore Technique Rapidly Decodes Long DNA Strands](#)

[Growing Unknown Microbes One by One](#)

[ModENCODE Studies Offer Clues to Genome Regulation in Model Organisms](#)

New Genomics Videos

[Genomics of Microbes and Microbiomes](#) - Julia Segre

[Recent Advances in the Epidemiology and Genetics of Bipolar Disorder](#) – Kathleen Merikangas

[Common Fund 10 Year Symposium](#)

Media Availability

[New Approach May Improve Study of Hard-to-Grow, Disease-Related Microorganisms](#)

Genome Advance of the Month

[Researchers Probe Inner Workings of Ancient Human Genomes, Compare Them to Humans](#)

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