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## FEDERAL LABORATORY CONSORTIUM AND NTIS

Wayne Strickland recently attended the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer's 2011 national meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Wayne has served in several capacities with NTIS since 1999 and is currently the Manager of our Program and Product Management Division.

**Pat Moton:** "Wayne, what is the purpose of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer?"

**Wayne Strickland:** "The Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) is a nationwide network of Federal laboratories. It provides a forum for the development of strategies and opportunities to link laboratory mission technologies and expertise with the marketplace."

**Pat:** "Is the FLC a new entity?"

**Wayne:** "Actually, Pat, the FLC was first organized in 1974 and then formally chartered by the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 to promote and strengthen technology transfer nationwide. Today, its membership includes more than 250 Federal laboratories and centers and their parent departments and agencies."

**Pat:** "How does NTIS support the FLC?"

**Wayne:** "NTIS is the largest central resource for Government-funded scientific, technical, engineering, and business-related information. We actively disseminate scientific and technical information in over 350 subject areas. Among other things, that information includes technical reports and technology transfer application assessments of interest to the FLC. In addition, we offer the Federal Research In Progress (FEDRIP) Database that provides access to information about ongoing Federally-funded projects in the fields of the physical sciences, engineering, and life sciences. The ongoing research announced in FEDRIP is an important component to the technology transfer process in the U.S."

**Pat:** "What are some of the highlights from the recent FLC meeting?"

**Please see page 3.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Federal Laboratory Consortium and NTIS
- 2 Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries
- 3 Where's NTIS Exhibiting?
- 4 State Indicator Report on Physical Activity, 2010
- 5 Humans to Mars: The Greatest Adventure in Human History

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*“Public libraries have become an essential part of the fabric of access to the Internet and computers in this country.”*

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## Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries

Computer technology has become widespread in American society. Access to computers and the Internet provide people information on job opportunities, Federal and State government services, educational opportunities, and social networks. Public libraries have been at the forefront of supporting free access to technology to help all Americans participate in the digital culture. Most public library systems in the United States provide public computers and Internet access with an average of seven terminals available for every 10,000 residents.

This report states: “Public libraries have become an essential part of the fabric of access to the Internet and computers in this country.” The study makes available the results of the first large-scale investigation of why patrons use library Internet and computer access, the ways they use it, and how it affects their lives. Only 28 percent of libraries offered visitors access to the Internet in 1996. Thanks to continual efforts by Federal, State, and local governments, private philanthropy, and the work of librarians, patrons can now gain access to computers and the Internet at almost all public library branches.

This report can be purchased from NTIS as [PB2011-107793](#) or it can be downloaded at <http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact> (simply click on **Opportunity for All: How Library Policies and Practices Impact Public Internet Access** in the first paragraph).

## Where’s NTIS Exhibiting?

We hope you’ll be able to stop by whenever NTIS is exhibiting in your area. From August 7-10, we will be exhibiting at the *GovEnergy 2011* event being held at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, Booth 1511.

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Are there upcoming conferences at which you feel an NTIS exhibit or speech would be a valuable contribution?

Just e-mail me at [customeradvocate@ntis.gov](mailto:customeradvocate@ntis.gov) or call me at

703-605-6103. I’ll be sure your suggestion is forwarded to the proper NTIS management staff.

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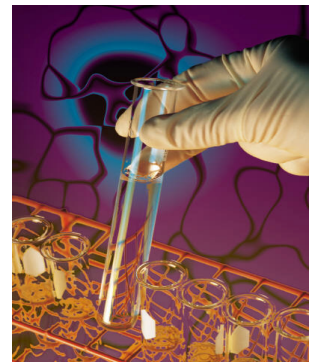
## FEDERAL LABORATORY CONSORTIUM AND NTIS

*From Page 1*

**Wayne:** “Well, Pat, I was intrigued by the diverse subject areas impacted by the work of Federal laboratories throughout the United States. For example:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging – The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is working in the area of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). As you may know, MRI machines visualize, through the use of magnetic fields and radio waves, the body’s internal structures, especially soft tissues. NIST has been involved with others in developing the first “phantom” for calibrating MRI machines that is traceable to international system units (SI) standards. Nicknamed “Phannie,” the prototype is a plastic sphere, about the size of a person’s head, filled with 200 smaller spheres used as contrast-enhancing agents and measurement reference markers. “Phannie” is scanned with an MRI machine and the results are then evaluated. It is anticipated that traceable MRI calibrations will potentially reduce medical costs. The physicist leading NIST’s part of the project, Stephen Russek, said: “If it’s accurate, reliable and affordable, then you have a way to measure the accuracy of MRI scanners all across the country.”
- Lagoon Microbes that Eat Oil – Mutant toxic lagoon microbes that eat oil were discovered living virtually unnoticed in the depths of a toxic sludge lagoon at a 100-year-old refinery in Poland. After eight years of research, scientists are unlocking the unique secrets of these microbes. In addition to eating oil, they have proved useful in cleaning contaminated soil. There are a lot of possibilities for using these microbes, and Dr. Robin Brigmon, an engineer at the Savannah River National Laboratory, said “We’re just getting started in terms of looking at saltwater, but we’re pretty excited about it.”
- Preventing Pandemics – The first human pandemic virus of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the pH1N1 virus was recognized in humans in April 2009. The Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) started developing a molecular test that could identify the pH1N1 virus and differentiate it from the classic H1N1 swine influenza viruses already circulating in U.S. swine and turkey populations. On May 3, 2009, the test protocol was transferred to the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, USDA-APHIS. Now, instead of taking over 1 to 2 weeks like the old testing, the current official tests for pH1N1 in veterinary specimens can be conducted in 3-4 hours.

**Pat:** “Thanks, Wayne, for providing us insight into the Federal Laboratory Consortium and addressing some of the work being conducted in the labs.”



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### ***State Indicator Report on Physical Activity, 2010***

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *State Indicator Report on Physical Activity, 2010*, includes information on physical activity policy, behavior, and environmental supports within each State

Throughout the States and communities, many groups help ensure that individuals and families can easily be physically active. This report's indicators identify where a State has been successful and where more work should be considered. Data in the report can be used to show how States support the behavior of physical activity, keep track of progress, and applaud State successes.

This report may be purchased from NTIS as [PB2011-107795](#). More information and a copy of the report are available at [www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/](http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/).

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### ***Humans to Mars: The Greatest Adventure in Human History***

We are on the verge of a historic accomplishment as plans are developed for a human mission to Mars. This is a national goal of the United States.

Such an effort will require multi-disciplined expertise in many areas including science, engineering, technology, human health and medicine, and human psychology and behavior. A group of more than 70 U.S. and international experts in these areas were invited to share their thoughts and views on a human mission to Mars. All submitted papers were examined by at least three peer reviewers.

This report includes 13 sections. The first section entitled "Astronauts on Mars" includes five articles by NASA Astronauts. The second section, "The Future is Mars," discusses the exploration of Mars with humans and the risks associate with such exploration.

This 8-page report can be purchased from NTIS as product number [N20110004142](#).

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