

The art of information security

10

UF Health Science
CENTER

GatorSHADE
in cyberspace

8

Medical
marijuana?

14

Superior
accomplishments

17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ④ POINT OF VIEW – Importance of Global Health
- ⑤ RESEARCH – Good Sleep Helps Epileptic Kids
- ⑥ RESEARCH – Get Dads Involved
- ⑦ RESEARCH – Genetic Influence on Drugs
- ⑧ EDUCATION – GatorSHADE in Cyberspace
- ⑨ EDUCATION – PPHP Accreditation
- ⑩ COVER FEATURE – Information Security
- ⑫ PATIENT CARE – Shock Therapy for Horses
- ⑭ FIVE QUESTIONS – Medical Marijuana?
- ⑮ DISTINCTIONS
- ⑯ GRANTS – Dental Research Gets \$75 Mil
- ⑰ (EXTRA)ORDINARY PEOPLE



4



12



19

ON THE COVER: Photo taken at UF's Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art by Lisa Baltozer. The POST staff thanks Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art staff Tami Wroath, marketing and public relations associate, Michael Peyton, chief preparator, Michael Everett, installation assistant, and Bill Middleton, senior security guard.



PHOTO BY VINCENT COLLIGNON, IBA

Riggers use a crane (above) to hoist one half of the cyclotron through the roof of the proton therapy facility in Jacksonville. Six hours later, the unit was in place and operational (right).

A very special delivery

What weighs 484,000 pounds, was shipped from Belgium to Jacksonville in two crates, took four hours to unpack and was so huge it had to be hoisted through a building's roof to be delivered?

Give up? A cyclotron — the heart of UF's cutting-edge proton beam therapy system under construction on the UF&Shands Jacksonville campus.

The revolutionary system uses proton beams instead of X-rays to treat cancer. Proton therapy delivers very tightly defined high doses of radiation to destroy tumors, with little or no damage to adjacent healthy tissues.

The Florida Proton Therapy Institute will be equipped with three treatment rooms and a research room — all connected to the 230-MeV (mega-electron volt) cyclotron. The cyclotron accelerates positively charged protons that a beam transport system then guides to three gantries in the treatment rooms. Each gantry weighs 330,000 pounds (150 metric tons).

"Even installing the crane to lift the cyclotron halves into the building was tricky," said Vincent Collignon, project site manager for Ion Beam Applications, the Belgian manufacturer of the proton beam system.

The crane arrived on 12 trucks that required oversized load precautions.

"Installation of the crane started at 8 a.m., and six hours later it was in place and operational," he said.

When completed in mid-2006 at a total cost of \$100 million, UF's proton therapy facility will be the only one in the Southeast.



POST wins a Golden Gator



PHOTO BY EVA EGENSTENER

The POST, a product of the Health Science Center News & Communications office, received top honors in the newsletter category during the University of Florida Communications Network's Golden Gator awards in April.

With humble beginnings as an 8½ by 11 mimeographed newsletter, the publication has sought to inform and entertain faculty, staff and students since the 1970s.

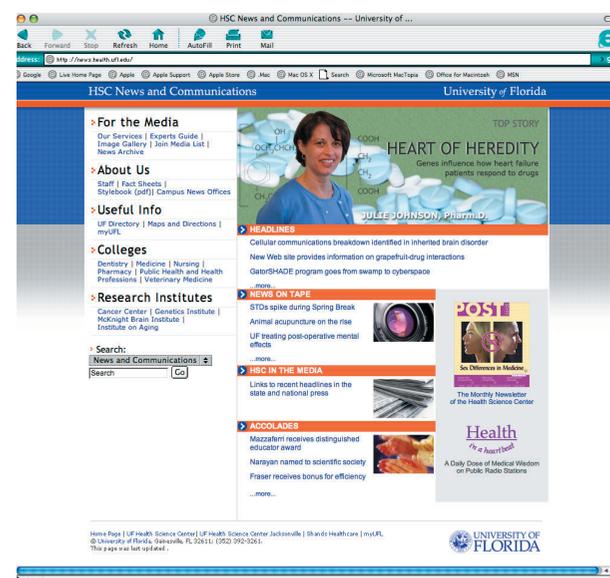
Designed by Lisa Baltozer (left) and edited by Denise Trunk (right), the POST was reinvented in 2004 through efforts of the News & Communications personnel and public relations representatives from the Health Science Center colleges. Part of the effort was a readership survey to gauge the needs of Health Science Center readers.

Click your way into the loop

Feeling uninformed? One way to stay up to date with the latest news about the Health Science Center is to surf over to the newly redesigned Web site of the HSC Office of News & Communications. Located at www.news.health.ufl.edu, the site is packed with useful information about HSC people, programs and activities.

Features include print and video news releases issued by the office, stories about the achievements of faculty and staff, and links to articles that mention the HSC in the consumer press. You'll also find current and back issues of the POST, along with the script and audio archive for the office's Health in a Heartbeat radio program.

Other useful tools include the searchable news release archive (we're currently adding 20 years of releases), a gallery of downloadable images, fact sheets and UF's expert's guide.



www.news.health.ufl.edu

What's your view?

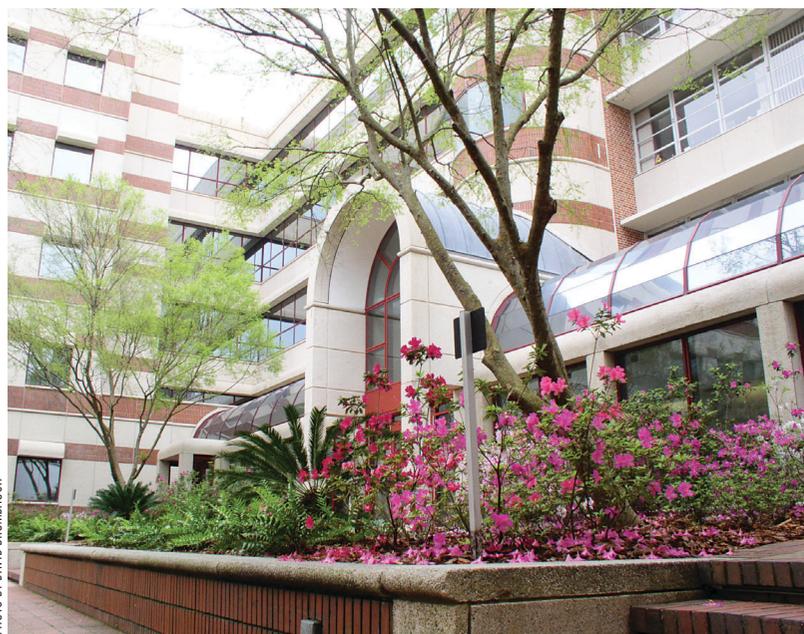


PHOTO BY DAVID BRUMBAUGH

Just as good views can be seen daily from an office window, they can also capture the fleeting beauty of a short season. David Brumbaugh saw the blooming azaleas in the courtyard outside the Founder's Gallery and submitted this good view as something to remember once the summer heat sets in.

Please submit your good view, and a comment on why you like it, to baltozer@ufl.edu.

Many voices heard on staff survey

The UF Staff Survey ended in mid-April with tremendous response. More than 4,890 staff members — nearly 58 percent of UF's 8,200 USPS and TEAMS employees — took time to complete and return their anonymous survey by the April 15 deadline.

Surveys were forwarded to the university's consulting firm in Chicago, to begin the work of data analysis. The firm will return the survey report for public review sometime in early June.

Special thanks to all of you who took the time to make your voice heard!

Your Voice—Your UF!

Improving Global Health:

Our Primary Challenge for the 21st Century*

By Allan F. Burns, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and chair of the Global Health Advisory Committee

Rob Lawrence, clinical associate professor of pediatrics

Parker A. Small Jr., professor emeritus in the departments of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine, and pediatrics

The week of April 11 marked the 50th anniversary of the development of polio vaccine and the concurrent recognition that health and disease eradication in the United States is directly linked to global health. Historian Arnold Toynbee said, “the 20th century will be chiefly remembered by future generations ... as an age in which human society dared to think of the welfare of the whole human race as a practical objective.”

The challenge for health-care professionals in the 21st century is to develop the leadership and scientific innovations to achieve this bold prediction and moral imperative. At our Health Science Center, our students and faculty are preparing themselves for this global medical challenge. Many students in the HSC’s six colleges have volunteered their time to spend at least a week in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Ecuador or elsewhere. These inter-professional trips are student-organized, student-run and largely student-financed. Some students go out of curiosity, some out of a sense of duty, some to explore career options, but all have returned with a true understanding of how the majority of the world’s population lives. Three billion people live on less than two dollars a day; the

implications of this for the world’s health become meaningful to doctors in training after these trips.

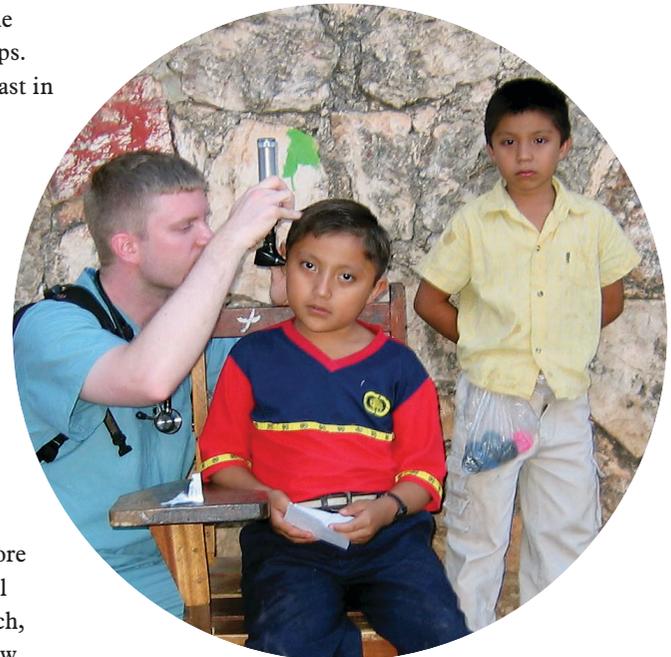
Many students come to our health center at least in part because of these programs. For our health center to take full advantage of this student interest and leadership, we need to integrate these experiences into each of the six colleges’ curricula, much as veterinary medicine and dentistry have done. We also need to energize the Office of Global Health to facilitate interdisciplinary learning, knowledge of emergent illnesses and curricular integration and to enhance faculty interactions throughout the world.

Now it is time to take the courageous step of going beyond “medical missions” to integrate global health inter-professional education as a core ideology in the six HSC colleges at UF. This will help engender the next breakthroughs in research, practice and education in a way that parallels how advances have been achieved in brain science, genetics and clinical practice.

Thanks to our students, our health center is in a position to help lead the nation. If not now, when? If not UF students, who? **P**

www.health.ufl.edu/ogh

* Some of these ideas were abstracted from a speech by Dr. Richard Klausner, executive director of global health, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



A medical student who traveled to Mexico on Project Yucatan conducts a physical.



Impact from abroad: Global trips enrich learning experience

International medical trips provide training and perspective that are required in our increasingly shrinking world, said 1991 UF graduate Michael Lauzardo, M.D., who is now an assistant professor in the division of pulmonary medicine and deputy TB controller for the Florida Department of Health’s Bureau of Tuberculosis and Refugee Health.

“Our society is becoming globalized, our medical education and health-care systems should prepare medical students to deal with that,” Lauzardo said.

Between his first and second years of medical school, Lauzardo was the sole UF student on a two-week international trip organized by the Christian Medical Society to provide care to rural villagers in Honduras.

“When you are a student you are in a very impressionable stage,” said Lauzardo. “The trip made an impression on me. That trip and others have made an impact on everything I do professionally and give me a perspective I otherwise would not have had.”

Lauzardo said he is glad to know the number of HSC students who participate in medical trips has grown to around 80 this year.

“When you take these trips it opens your eyes and gives you perspective, training and experience in how the rest of the world lives, what medicine is like elsewhere,” Lauzardo said. “Medicine is more than just pills and surgery, it exists in a whole societal context. Many things students can learn on these trips relate to the compassionate side of medicine.”

Solving sleep problems helps epileptic children

By John Pastor

Sleeping woes may explain why children with epilepsy are often so hyperactive, say researchers with UF's Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute.

Characterized at its extreme by physical convulsions, epilepsy has long been thought to cause excitability and contrariness in children. But UF researchers writing in the journal *Epilepsy & Behavior* believe the real reason some of these children cannot sit still or pay attention is because they don't get enough shut-eye.

"When we treated kids with sleep disturbances, not only did their epilepsy get better, their daytime behavior, concentration and capacity to learn increased," said Paul Carney, M.D., chief of pediatric neurology at UF's College of Medicine and a professor at the B.J. and Eve Wilder Center for Excellence in Epilepsy Research. "Many kids with epilepsy aren't being adequately assessed for underlying sleep disorders. We can significantly have an impact over their cognition, learning and maybe even improve their epilepsy by improving their sleep."

Epilepsy describes a group of disorders that occurs when electrical activity in the brain goes haywire, resulting in bursts of frenetic activity that cause seizures. It strikes more than 2 million people in the United States, according to the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke.

UF scientists monitored the brain and muscular activity of 30 children with epilepsy between the ages of 7 and 14 during single overnight stays. None of the children had seizures, but some awoke hundreds of times because of breathing problems.

In all, 24 of the children — 80 percent — breathed shallowly or had breathing disruptions caused by apneas, which usually happen when the soft tissue in the rear of the throat relaxes during sleep and blocks a person's airway.

As the breathing disruptions increased in duration, the children spent less time in rapid eye movement, or REM, sleep, a period in the sleep cycle when brain activity is highest and people dream intensely. The children in the study spent 17 percent of total sleep time in the REM stage. The norm for young adults is 25 percent.

"Removing the sleep problem does seem to improve the behavior problem significantly, because it changes the child's level of alertness," Carney said. "Commonly, adults are just not as awake if they have a sleep disorder. But children who haven't taken their nap are wound up instead. Treating their sleep disorder, we think, can enable their brain to have some control over unwanted behavior."

Seventy-three percent of the children studied — 22 of the 30 — met clinical criteria for inattention or hyperactivity, according to Carney, who conducted the research with Eileen Fennell, Ph.D., a child neuropsychologist in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, and Danielle Becker, M.S., a former



PHOTO BY PHAEDRA WILKINSON IMAGES & DESIGNS

Most children get cranky and don't do well at school when they don't get enough sleep. Children with epilepsy are no different, but often their argumentativeness and behavior problems are blamed on the disorder itself, not any underlying sleep disturbances. But when doctors at UF&Shands treated children with epilepsy for their sleep disorders, not only did their epilepsy get better, their daytime behavior, concentration and capacity to learn increased. "We can significantly have an impact over their cognition, learning and maybe even improve their epilepsy by improving their sleep," says Dr. Paul Carney, chief of pediatric neurology and a professor at UF's McKnight Brain Institute.

graduate student now pursuing a medical degree.

Of these 22 children, each had a sleep disorder, 14 had problems paying attention during the day and eight had hyperactive symptoms, supporting the idea that a poor night's sleep is associated with children's daytime attention problems. UF scientists found no correlation between seizure frequency and behavioral problems. Epilepsy alone did not appear to predispose them to behavioral problems.

In general, scientists don't know exactly why people need sleep, but it is vital for good memory, physical performance and psychological well being, according to the National Institutes of Health. Some experts believe sleep gives brain cells a chance to shut down and repair themselves. Sleep also may allow the brain to exercise important connections that might wither from lack of activity.

Research with different groups of children is now under way to determine whether treatment of sleep disorders will reduce seizure frequency and severity, and to more fully understand the effects of sleep disorders on children's behavior and cognitive abilities. **P**

Autistic kids benefit from dads' involvement

By Tracy Brown Wright

Make room for daddy, say UF autism experts. Teaching fathers how to communicate and play with their autistic children pays dividends, for parents and kids alike.

Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is characterized by problems interacting and communicating with others. Caring for an autistic child can be a relentless and labor-intensive task — one that is overwhelmingly performed by mothers, says UF nursing researcher Jennifer Elder, Ph.D., R.N.

Now UF researchers have found that teaching fathers how to talk to and play with their autistic children in a home setting improved communication, increased the number of intelligible words the youngsters spoke by more than 50 percent and helped dads get more involved in their care. The findings were published in a recent issue of the journal *Nursing Research*.

“We found that fathers were getting frustrated because they felt they couldn’t connect with their autistic child,” said Elder, the study’s principal investigator and an associate professor and chairwoman of the department of health care environments and systems at UF’s College of Nursing. “During one of our sessions, a child made eye contact with his father and said ‘Daddy’ for the first time in the child’s life.

“Traditionally, mothers are the primary caretakers of autistic children,” Elder added. “Through our training, we caused a shift in the paradigm of many of these families, with fathers taking on a more active role with their autistic children, sometimes even taking the lead in caretaking.”

At least 1.5 million Americans have some form of autism, and it now affects one in every 166 births, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

UF researchers examined 18 father-child relationships before and after specialized training sessions. The families were recruited through UF’s Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and a community health practice in Central Florida and included 14 boys and four girls ranging in age from 3 years to 7 years.

Building on a similar study of mothers of autistic children, Elder videotaped the father-child pairs in their homes during playtime sessions before training and at three key stages in the training process. The training emphasized language development and taught fathers to use everyday activities like playing with building blocks, puppets, cars and trucks, and bubbles to interact with their children.

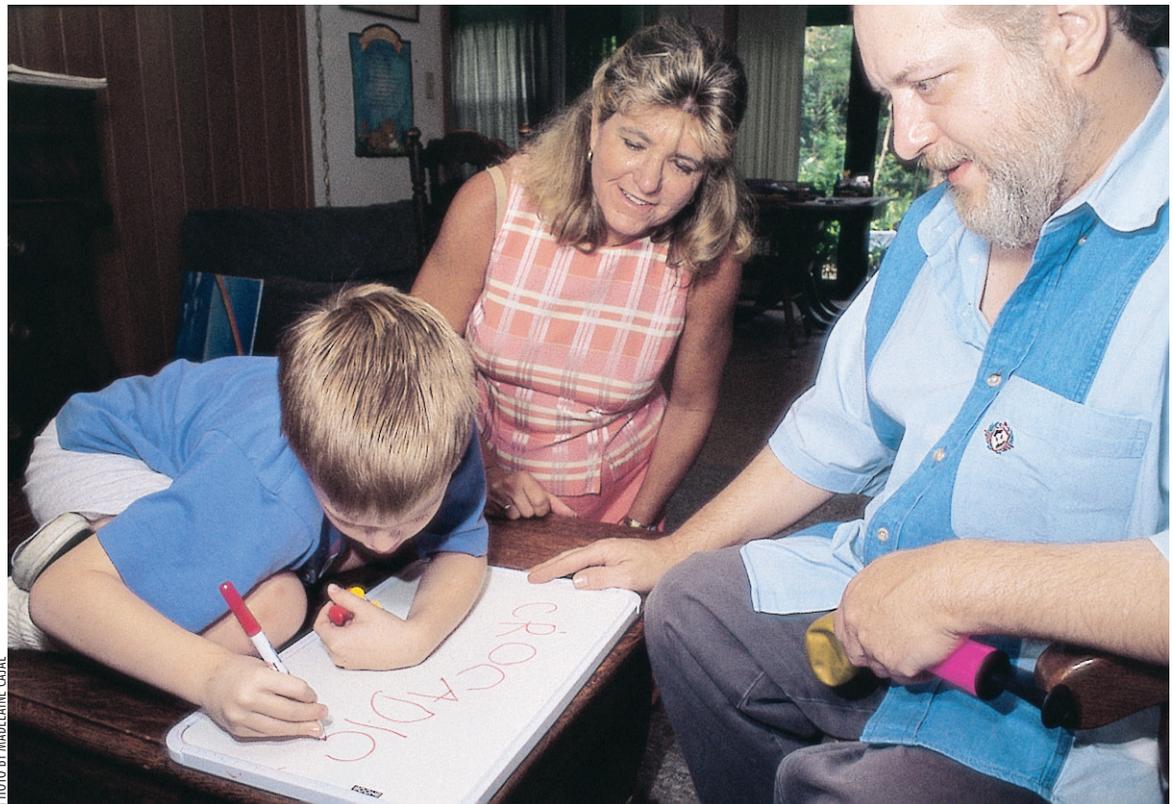
During the first stage, fathers learned to initiate play with their children through animated repetition of their children’s vocalizations and actions. Fathers were told to resist the temptation to direct their child’s play and instead to follow the child’s lead. In the second phase, they were told to wait for their child’s response before continuing play. Eventually, the two techniques were used together.

“We are really interested in promoting social balance, or turn-taking, in autistic children and their parents,” Elder said. “Normally, the parent might cue

the child with one question, ask another question without waiting, and the child gets very frustrated and starts not to even attempt to respond. To combat that, we teach the parents to give a cue and wait for the response, with the expectation that the child will respond to establish that social balance.”

Fathers were more likely to initiate play in an animated way and responded more to their children during playtime. Children also became more vocal and were more than twice as likely to initiate play with their fathers. Surveys completed after the study was over also revealed that fathers viewed the training as valuable.

“One father related how after training, he felt empowered in his paternal role



UF autism researcher Jennifer Elder (center) observes Charles McCormac as he plays with his son, David. The McCormacs participated in Elder’s research study, which trained fathers to better communicate with their autistic children.

and became an active school liaison,” Elder said. “This proved beneficial for the child, who now had both parents consistently involved in his education.”

Researchers also were surprised to find that many fathers in the study actually took the lead in training the mothers and even siblings in the rest of the family, a key distinction from the mothers in her previous study, Elder said. In that study, researchers found similar benefits to training mothers, but moms weren’t as likely to attempt to teach fathers the techniques they learned.

Recent research has shown that early intervention with children can have a major influence on how the child develops and functions later in life.

“With the proper training at an early age, we feel that these techniques can help autistic children be more socially interactive and pick up language more easily,” Elder said. **P**

Genes influence how heart failure patients respond to drugs

By Melanie Fridl Ross

Genes dictate the color of our hair and eyes. They factor into whether we get cancer or heart disease. And, scientists increasingly recognize, they also ensure some patients will benefit from a prescription drug, while others develop adverse reactions or simply fail to respond at all.

Now UF researchers have discovered that patients with heart failure can harbor genetic variations that determine whether they will tolerate the common heart drugs known as beta-blockers.

In a separate study, they also determined certain genes influence whether beta-blockers successfully restore the heart to a more normal shape and size in these patients. The findings, published recently in the journal *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics* and the journal *Pharmacogenetics and Genomics*, highlight the need to individualize therapy, as opposed to treating all people with a certain disease generally the same, said the studies' principal investigator Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., director of the UF Center for Pharmacogenomics.

Although diet, age, health status and the environment also shape how people respond to medications, personalizing drugs based on genetic makeup instead of taking a trial-and-error approach could lead to safer, more effective treatments, said Johnson, also a professor at UF's colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine and chairwoman of the department of pharmacy practice. Because of hereditary factors, some patients break down drugs more slowly, so the amount of a certain medication may soar to toxic levels in the body. Others metabolize drugs quickly, and never accumulate enough in the bloodstream to ease what ails them.

A clearer understanding of who would benefit from beta-blocker therapy also would ensure more patients would be helped, Johnson said, citing a serious international problem with both underuse and underdosing of the drugs.

In the past five years, beta-blockers have become a standard part of the treatment for heart failure. Patients with the disorder have enlarged hearts that lose the normal heart shape and become rounder and somewhat baggy. Beta-blockers help restore the heart to a more typical shape and size and, in doing so, improve heart



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

UF pharmacy researcher Julie Johnson is pictured in the laboratory where she studies genetic variations that may account for whether certain patients respond favorably to commonly prescribed heart drugs.

function. The drugs also have been shown to prolong life and reduce the rate of hospitalization for heart failure symptoms.

"In the past five to 10 years, there's really been an increased interest in understanding the role of genetics in determining how people respond to drugs," Johnson said. "The reason for that is that we know that in a group of individuals, a certain portion will have side effects, or toxicity from a drug, a certain portion will derive the benefits we want, and some won't derive any benefit. The long-term goal is to try to be able to determine that before we actually have to give them the drug." **P**

Cellular communications breakdown identified in inherited brain disorder

A breakdown in brain cell communication may contribute to the most common biochemical cause of mental retardation, UF scientists have discovered.

The process is akin to a baseball game gone bad. Imagine if a pitcher were joined by six players simultaneously winding up on the mound. Crouched behind home plate, the single catcher would soon be overwhelmed. Even if the coach sent in teammates to catch the extra balls, confusion would reign on the field.

UF researchers, writing in the journal *Brain*, identified an analogous situation in the brains of mice with a version of the hereditary disorder

phenylketonuria, or PKU: A flood of an amino acid found in nearly all foods bombards certain brain cells, drowning out their ability to communicate properly and potentially interfering with normal brain development.

Scientists have long known that babies born with PKU lack or are deficient in the enzyme that converts the amino acid phenylalanine into a usable form. The amount of the amino acid in the blood builds to toxic levels, ultimately causing severe brain disorders, including mental retardation and seizures. Researchers have been less clear on precisely how that torrent of phenylalanine interferes with brain function.

"Despite tremendous progress in the understanding of the molecular basis of PKU, the mechanisms of how the brain is negatively affected by high levels of phenylalanine has not been known," said Anatoly Martynyuk, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anesthesiology and neuroscience at UF's College of Medicine and the McKnight Brain Institute. "This is a new and original approach to explain the cellular mechanisms of brain dysfunction in PKU."

— Denise Trunk

See the full story at www.news.health.ufl.edu/story.asp?ID=610

GatorSHADE program goes from Swamp to cyberspace

By Tracy Brown Wright

Few animals are better at shading themselves from the sun than an alligator, and for more than 10 years, University of Florida faculty members have used the wisdom of their school's mascot to teach young children about the importance of sun protection.

The GatorSHADE program was developed in 1994 to educate Florida's children and their parents about skin cancer and encourage them to make appropriate lifestyle changes to prevent the disease. Now, GatorSHADE founders have decided to share their program with the world through an interactive Web site, designed to make the GatorSHADE curriculum available to both educators and consumers.

"Skin cancer has become the No. 1 cancer found in the United States today, and Florida has one of the nation's highest incidences of the disease," said primary founder Carol Reed Ash, Ed.D., R.N., an associate director at the UF Shands Cancer Center. "Yet skin cancer is one of the most easily detected and curable forms of cancer if treated early."

The new Web site, www.gatorshade.ufl.edu, contains interactive games and learning tools designed to make skin cancer education fun and easy, and the curricular tools allow teachers and counselors to easily integrate GatorSHADE principles into their learning plans. It was

designed by Big Media Studios Inc. in Gainesville.

"After 10 years of developing, testing and implementing the GatorSHADE program, we felt it was time to share this with those who could most benefit from it," said Ash, a UF College of Nursing eminent scholar who fills the Kirbo endowed chair in oncology nursing. "Education is no longer confined to books and lectures, and today's children utilize the Internet to learn about important issues. We felt a Web site would be the best way to communicate and share our program."

The GatorSHADE program is the brainchild of Ash, who, along with Jill W. Varnes, Ed.D., the interim dean of the UF College of Health and Human Performance, launched the program at a 1994 UF football game with the distribution of GatorSHADE hats to children and information cards and SPF 30 sunscreen to all in attendance. The hats were particularly important because they contained special neck flaps that gave extra protection in a vulnerable area.

That led to the development of a complete curriculum package designed to teach elementary students about sun-safe habits and the hazards of overexposure to ultraviolet radiation. The package includes a 16-minute video, two-player board game, exercises, experiment and a take-home information packet for parents.

The "Reach the Beach" game allows kids to flip a virtual coin, take a turn answering a skin cancer question, and advance through colored footsteps in the sand. Whoever answers the most questions correctly will "reach the beach" first. Also included are a crossword puzzle, word search and even a science experiment involving the sun. The video, which features child newscasters reporting about sun safety, has been made available in Web format so that children may watch one segment at a time.

Educators will find the curricular materials easy to integrate into their lesson plans, Ash said. The curriculum has been proved to raise awareness through field tests at P.K. Yonge Elementary School in Gainesville and 12 Indian River County elementary schools. More than 1,100 elementary students participated in the field tests.

Ash and her colleagues hope that the new Web site will assist both parents and educators in teaching children about the importance of sun protection and making sure the practice lasts a lifetime.

"Overexposure to the sun's rays is cumulative and begins to build in childhood. Like safe driving, safe sun practices have dramatic effects," Ash said. "For these reasons, the best defense against skin cancer is prevention." **P**



With the help of the GatorSHADE program, future Gators show Albert the Alligator how to protect his skin from the sun.

UF public health program moves closer to accreditation

By Jill Pease

The College of Public Health and Health Professions has been named an associate member of the Association of Schools of Public Health, signifying the completion of the college's first major step toward receiving accreditation as a school of public health.

The criteria for associate membership are acceptance by the public health education accrediting body — the Council on Education for Public Health — into the accreditation process and an affirmative vote by the membership of ASPH.

UF established a new college of public health in December 2003 that was integrated into the existing College of Health Professions. The college was renamed the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

"The associate membership status puts us in a strategic position to move into full membership status once we are accredited," said Mary Peoples-Sheps, Dr.P.H., director of UF's public health program. "We have come a long way in the past 18 months. It is gratifying to have achieved associate membership in ASPH, not only because it represents an important milestone, but also because this accomplishment gives us momentum to move toward full accreditation as a school of public health."

The Council on Education for Public Health will review the UF program in two to three years, Peoples-Sheps said. In the meantime, the public health program will continue to enhance the curricula in its five concentration areas:

biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, health management and policy, and social and behavioral sciences. In addition, the program will increase the number of faculty in those areas and promote the faculty's public health research agendas.

"A strong College of Public Health and Health Professions has always been our goal," said Robert Frank, Ph.D., dean of the college. "This represents another step in the path toward that end. A vibrant and progressive public health presence on the campus of the University of Florida places us in the company of the very top health science centers in the nation." **P**

Dr. Mary Peoples-Sheps (left) with public health students Paula Crawford, Wei Yuan and Annie Morton.



PHOTO BY KOR PHOTOGRAPHY



Grapefruit-Rx

New Web site provides food-drug interaction database

Consumers and health-care professionals seeking reliable information about food-drug interactions can turn to a new Web resource, according to a University of Florida pharmacy educator in natural products.

The Web site — www.DrugInteractionCenter.org — houses a comprehensive database of grapefruit-drug interactions along with supporting scientific literature designed to be an easy-to-use reference tool for health-care professionals and patients.

"Food and other nutrients can impact the effectiveness of prescription and over-the-counter drugs with clinically significant results," said Veronika Butterweck, an assistant professor and co-director of UF's Center for Food-Drug Interaction Research and Education. She announced the new Web tool in a talk on pharmacists' role in informing patients about food-drug interactions at the American Pharmacists Association annual meeting held in April in Orlando.

In 2003, UF and Tufts University pharmacology experts established the center, with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and assistance from the Florida Department of Citrus, to bring together researchers in pharmacy, medicine and food science to identify and analyze possible food-drug interactions and their effects. Initially, the center's research efforts focus on grapefruit juice

interactions, Butterweck said.

The grapefruit juice effect was discovered in the 1980s when scientists learned that grapefruit juice inhibits the CYP3A4 enzyme, which metabolizes certain drugs. This interference may enhance the body's absorption of affected drugs, causing side effects.

The Web site features include:

- A listing of drugs that interact with grapefruit juice, as well as alternative, non-interacting drugs within the same drug classes that may also support a patient's therapeutic needs.
- Access to detailed scientific summaries of interactions, along with simplified summaries for patients.
- A list of more than 130 relevant research studies and links to the studies on PubMed.

While DrugInteractionCenter.org may help clarify information about drug interactions with grapefruit juice, UF pharmacy faculty advise patients to discuss the prescription medications they are taking with their health-care providers.

— Linda Homewood

INFORMATION SECURITY: IT'S ON YOU

By Denise Trunk

When a stranger walked into an office on the University of California Berkeley campus recently and walked out with an expensive laptop, the thief carried off something more valuable than hardware.

The portable computer's hard drive contained the priceless personal and financial information of nearly 100,000 college students.

With the Social Security numbers and other information stored on a stolen medical center laptop, a thief could potentially steal identities, charge credit cards, change a student's grade, order prescription medications, discover the identities of AIDS patients, steal medical research data, and more. There is really no end to the possible dangers of a complete security breach.

Let's face it, most files aren't what they used to be — namely, written on paper and stored under lock and key. Personal and institutional information is more vulnerable than ever. Much of a patient's medical or financial records are now stored on a computer network. Personnel and research files are electronic, too. And from the time computer networks were invented, hackers have been trying to break into them or cripple them with viruses.

So it comes as no surprise that information security is a growing concern that has cost corporations and educational institutions millions of dollars in the past few years. Not only do traditional information storage systems need protection, but remote access and portable technology that employees can take outside an institution's walls — such as PDAs, USB storage devices and laptops — present special challenges to defending data.

"The times have changed and we no longer can

operate in a business-as-usual manner; we have to keep up with the times, user demand and technology," said Jan J. van der Aa, assistant vice president for health affairs for information services.

With information swirling around everyone in the HSC, multiple tactics are necessary to keep data safe and private, information security experts say. It is not enough to encrypt a computer file if someone can walk through an unlocked door and steal a paper copy from a file cabinet. Thus, information security — from enforcing the use of ID badges to locking lab doors to protecting computers with passwords — requires a multifaceted approach.

A survey conducted by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and published in December 2004 found that about half the 500 U.S. colleges and universities surveyed are spending more of their information technology budgets on security each year. Many universities, including UF, are hiring security officers, constructing a centralized security structure and creating strategies for dealing with the threat.

At the Health Science Center, Douglas Barrett, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs, authorized the development of the Security Program for the Information and Computing Environment, or SPICE.

SPICE addresses the protection of information that is owned, managed and used by HSC faculty, staff, students and volunteers. The goal of the program is to secure information and data used in support of all the HSC's missions — and includes everything from film media to paper documents as well as electronically stored and transmitted data.

"Information security has to be a priority for everyone, especially those of us entrusted with

protecting the confidential information of our patients," Barrett said. "That protective barrier is only as strong as our weakest link, so I ask everyone to please embrace this important effort."

van der Aa agreed, adding, "SPICE's theme, 'The Focus is on YOU,' emphasizes the important role that everyone in the Health Science Center has to play to make this a reality."

Faculty, staff and students won't be on their own as they learn and adapt to the new routine. SPICE will assist personnel at HSC locations in classifying and securing the information they use in support of all missions and business activities through different types of training now under development. Those in charge of coordinating the program say it will take time to streamline the system and bring staff up to speed.

For the time being, the focus of a major training effort will be to raise awareness of the problem and make employees more conscious of what equipment or data needs to be protected and how that can be done on an everyday basis.

Eventually, for some types of security breaches, HSC personnel could be held personally accountable, with repercussions ranging from being denied access to the network from a non-secure computer to dismissal and criminal charges for negligence.

The program coordinates the HSC's security efforts with the federal privacy regulations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, to avoid inappropriate disclosure, loss or corruption of information. To that end, the first step to spicing up security was to discern what types of information must be protected and how to best secure it. That job fell to Tom Jordan, assistant director of IT program development. He began two years ago to lead the SPICE project team to find ways to identify and protect data while meeting HIPAA security rules, as

Information security essentials

Make information security a part of your everyday routine.

lock up: your workspace, office, patient care areas, laboratories, conference rooms, storage rooms and other spaces containing information assets — including desks, computers, file cabinets, film storage, computers, servers and network equipment — when unattended.

wear: your UF Gator1 or other approved ID badge at all times when at an HSC facility.

know: the kinds of information you access, manage and store. Know where it came from, where it is stored and how to safeguard it.

protect: your strong passwords and change them as required by your IT Service Provider. Do not share your password or write it where it could be seen by anyone.

log off: from your computer or lock it when you are leaving the area.

SECURE: follow the UF privacy guidelines when sending protected health information by e-mail: http://privacy.health.ufl.edu/faq/facts_email.asp.

well as other federal and state regulations and university policies.

Team members were recruited to represent their organizations, co-workers, colleges and fellow students. They each brought knowledge of and expertise in their work at the HSC. Members served on specialty teams to develop policies, standards and approaches to information security that could be reasonably attained in the work environment.

“SPICE has been an HSC-wide effort involving over 60 team members from various HSC organizations in Gainesville and Jacksonville,” Jordan said. “Their dedication, commitment and hard work were essential in developing SPICE.”

The program establishes four categories — restricted, critical, operational or unrestricted — for all types of information, whether it is research data, patient information, intellectual property or some other type. Each classification has a corresponding set of security requirements. Protected health information is considered restricted.

“The federal privacy (HIPAA) regulations contained a number of security provisions,” said van der Aa. “Additional security regulations that took effect April 20 outline requirements for safeguarding information and further benefit privacy. You cannot have privacy without security. The two go hand-in-hand.”

The security rules give specific or required elements for protection of information, set up to ensure privacy, said Susan Blair, UF’s privacy officer, whose office contributed to the development of SPICE and is responsible for UF’s compliance with HIPAA regulations.

“I think this is long overdue,” Blair said. “We are seeing in the current environment organizations that have been hacked and have had their information stolen. With these safeguards in place, we are more

secure and our information is more private. The measures SPICE has taken have gone beyond HIPAA somewhat to secure information of all types. I think that is a good thing.”

van der Aa established a support team to get the program started among the staff, including creating a new position called HSC chief of information security.

Colleen Ebel, recruited from the University of Michigan Health System, will fill the position and manage the ongoing implementation and maintenance of SPICE along with dedicated information security staff members. Ebel will also chair the HSC Information Security Council, which will advise and support the program as it develops.

“Your network is only as effective as its community of users including end users, systems administrators and developers,” Ebel said. “I plan to pour a great deal of my time into education and communication. I really believe this is the best approach in an academic setting, where you can count on a highly intelligent workforce who wants to do the right thing.”

The HSC has been divided into organizational units based on its colleges, departments and institutes, and each will have information security technology staff and administrators. Under Ebel’s leadership, a unit information security administrator, known as a Unit ISA, and a unit information security manager, or Unit ISM, will help the staff implement necessary security measures, from physical security safeguards, such as locked doors and drawers, to technical security controls, such as password protection and encryption. The Unit ISMs will investigate security breaches and help resolve them.

Getting the SPICE Program up and running will be an ongoing process. Given how far-flung and diverse the HSC is, SPICE program staff says that developing



procedures and practices throughout every unit will be a challenge.

Marian Boyle, a member of the training and communications team, has helped create a SPICE Web site at <http://security.health.ufl.edu> to assist HSC personnel learn the new security ropes. The site contains information and will have tutorials for staff and students. Boyle says people need to refer to the site often for updates.

“SPICE was a very large and complex project that brought together the entire HSC to develop an information security program that we can all be proud of,” Boyle said. “We still have much work ahead of us, and the support of the Unit ISAs and ISMs is essential.”

Making information security a part of everyone’s daily routine helps to ensure that the HSC’s information assets, work and organization are protected, Blair said.

“Nobody wants more government in their lives,” she added. “But consumers want more security and privacy and have a strong interest in making sure their information is secure. This is a good way to do it.” **P**

if you use a portable or home computer:

- Keep operating systems patched and up to date.
- Use an anti-virus program and keep it up to date. The McAfee VirusScan protection is available to faculty, staff and students for home/personal use: www.software.ufl.edu/mcafee/.
- Change default passwords (such as the password for the administrator’s account).
- Turn off file sharing (you can turn it on later when you need it).
- Back-up your information and store in a secure location.

if UF IT staff manages your computer:

- Store information classified as Restricted and Critical (mission- and business-critical information) on a secure networked server.
- Backup your files regularly if not done so by the IT provider.
- Do not share accounts.

Juice for a horse's heart

UF veterinarians use electric shock to correct irregular heartbeats

By Sarah Carey

Borrowing from a Canadian veterinarian's unique expertise, UF veterinarians recently became the first in the United States believed to have successfully performed intracardiac electrical conversion of a common arrhythmia in horses that causes irregular and fast heartbeats.

Two horses received the procedure in March, including an Ocala thoroughbred named Captain who was part of a training exercise conducted for UF veterinarians by the individual who developed the technique, Canadian veterinarian Kim McGurrin, D.V.M. McGurrin developed the technique over the past four years along with her mentor, Peter Physick-Sheard, B.V.Sc., at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

Captain's arrhythmia, known as atrial fibrillation, had been treated medically several times but without success, said Mel Valley Farm owner-caretaker Carl Stump. Now, however, Captain appears to be doing well, Stump said.

"He is now training at a local place here in Ocala, so he is back to work," Stump said.

McGurrin said the intracardiac electrical conversion technique was developed to offer new treatment options for atrial fibrillation.

"It is excellent that UF is now capable of performing this procedure," McGurrin said. "We have applied this technique on more than 50 horses, including 44 client-owned horses referred from the states. Most horses have returned to performance, and we now consider this procedure routine."

Amara Estrada, D.V.M., an assistant professor of veterinary cardiology at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine, and her colleague, Darcy Adin, D.V.M., were both involved in the recent UF procedure. Estrada said the cardiac abnormality for which the procedure is used is "an important arrhythmia for many reasons."

"Probably it is most important to horse owners and trainers of race horses because it causes poor performance and poor racing," Estrada said. "But certainly pet horses develop the condition as well."

It is also the most common arrhythmia in horses, occurring in 1 percent to 2 percent of horses.

Estrada said atrial fibrillation causes a decrease in cardiac output, negatively affecting a horse's performance.

The disease is said to be frustrating to both horse owners and veterinarians because medical therapy frequently has to be administered many times and often has serious side effects.

"Typical medical treatment has consisted of anti-arrhythmic drugs given orally or intravenously, but the drugs can have fairly significant side effects, including toxicity," said Steeve Giguère, D.V.M., Ph.D., an associate professor of equine medicine at UF.

The UF veterinarians had heard of McGurrin and were aware that intracardiac electrical

conversion technology was now being performed in horses at the University of Guelph routinely with "great success," Giguère said.

The procedure, which takes about two hours, involves surgically threading two catheters through veins in the horse's neck into the heart's right atrium and the pulmonary artery. During the catheter placement, echocardiography, or ultrasound technology, is used to determine the exact placement of the catheters.

"Once the catheters are in the correct location, a short shock is delivered to 'reset' the atria and terminate the fibrillation, thus establishing a normal rhythm," Estrada said.

The equipment used to administer the shock is a biphasic defibrillator, the same technology used in human emergency medicine to treat cardiac arrhythmias.

"Most horses with atrial fibrillation do not have underlying heart disease," Giguère said. "So if you can restore their normal sinus rhythm, they usually return to their previous level of performance." **P**

Dr. Amara Estrada (center) prepares the horse for shock treatment by opening electrode patches. Dr. Sheila Robertson monitors anesthesia.



PHOTO BY LEWIS MALLORY

Occupational therapy department hosts national executives

By Jill Pease

The department of occupational therapy at the College of Public Health and Health Professions hosted executives from the American Occupational Therapy Association during a visit March 23.

Maureen Peterson, chief professional affairs officer, and Elin Schold-Davis, coordinator of the association's Older Driver Initiative, met with department faculty and graduate students, viewed the new assistive technology at the UF Gator-Tech Smart House on the campus of Oak Hammock at UF, and participated in a town hall meeting for area occupational therapists, faculty and students who were interested in an informal and open dialogue with the executives.

The association currently partners with the department in the development of a training program for driving rehabilitation specialists, as part of the UF National Older Drivers Research and Training Center program. The executives' visit gave them a chance to scout out new partnerships with the department.

"The UF visit gave me the opportunity to begin a dialogue about future collaborative possibilities around continuing education between AOTA and UF," Peterson said. "I also had the chance to meet the very talented faculty and to see firsthand the level of scholarship and commitment to research in several important areas."

Knowledge of university research helps the association communicate new information to its members, Schold-Davis said.

"The UF occupational therapy department is ambitious and very involved in research, in addition to having a strong professional program," she said. "As members learn about what others are doing, it may influence their expansion of programs or maybe draw interest in pursuing further education." **P**

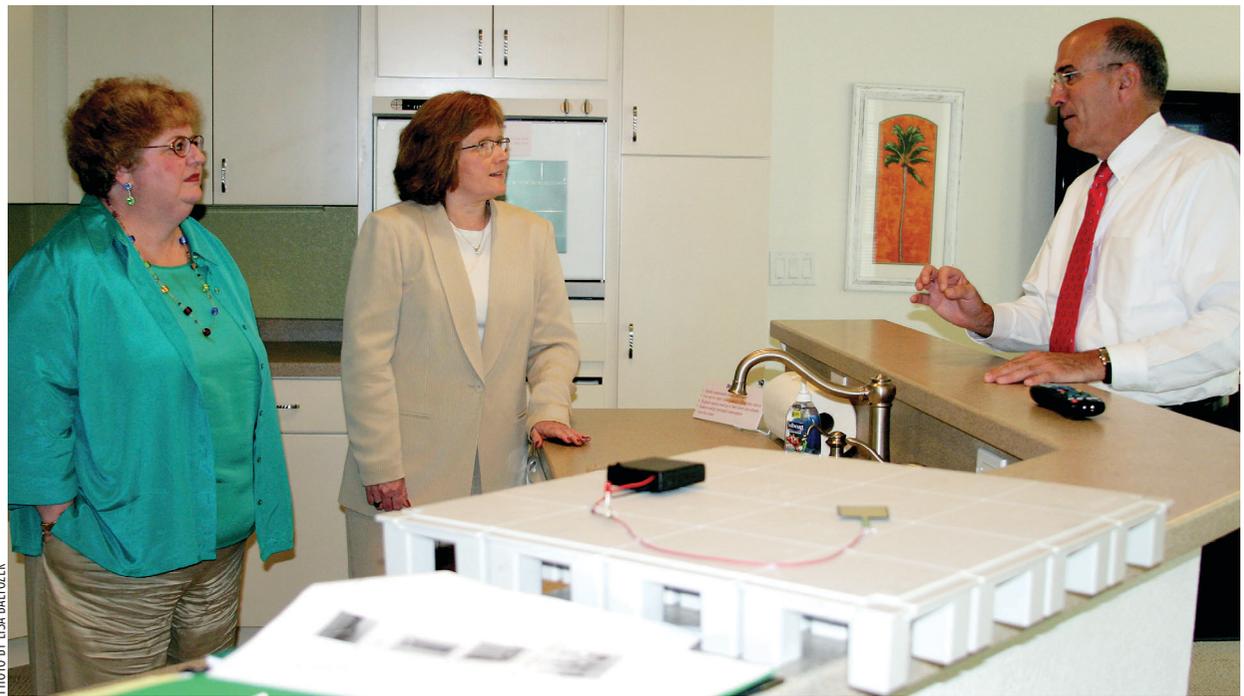


PHOTO BY LISA BALDIZIER

American Occupational Therapy Association executives Maureen Peterson (left) and Elin Schold-Davis chat with William Mann, Ph.D., occupational therapy chairman, in the UF Gator-Tech Smart House's kitchen. On the counter is a sample of the material used to build the computerized "smart floor," which tracks occupants' movements.

Children with ADHD develop social skills and improve peer relationships in new clinic

A recently launched Shands at UF Psychology Clinic service will address the social problems many children with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder experience.

Directed by Shelley Heaton, Ph.D., and David Janicke, Ph.D., assistant professors in the department of clinical and health psychology at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the group intervention program is designed for children between the ages of 8 and 11 who have ADHD.

Skills are taught through discussion, role-playing, homework assignments and other fun activities. Program content includes developing skills for cooperation, perspective taking, conversation, participating in group activities and controlling anger and impulses.

Children with ADHD may have problems with social skills because their hyperactive or impulsive behavior may disrupt other children's activities, making them appear bossy or demanding, Janicke said. Children who are inattentive may also have trouble focusing on what other children are saying and may lose interest

quickly, making them frustrating playmates.

"Sometimes these behaviors can make it difficult for children with ADHD to make or keep friends," Janicke said.

Children who participate in the program will meet weekly for eight one-hour sessions held in the early evening.

"The unique thing about this treatment is that we not only teach social skills to the children, but also practice them in 'real-world' situations with other children in the class, such as cooperating while playing a game or handling teasing," Janicke said. "Children with ADHD are particularly responsive to repeated practice and practical activities rather than just 'talk therapy' where they are told the social skills but aren't given the opportunity to practice."

The next group starts in June, with openings for eight children. For more information on the social skills group, call (352) 273-5282.

— Jill Pease

The burning debate over medical marijuana

The question of whether marijuana should be used medicinally is burning in California, where it has been legalized for use with a doctor's recommendation in spite of federal laws in place since 1970 banning it. A medical marijuana case will soon be argued in the U.S. Supreme Court. As the debate grows, the issue has become entangled with state, national and global politics and the legalization agenda. The POST asks expert Paul Doering, M.S., a professor of pharmacy, to comment on some of the medical aspects under discussion in the debate.



Is medical marijuana safe?



Safe is a relative term, for example, drugs for cancer are not safe, but they are necessary. Marijuana has some detrimental side effects, such as being bad for the lungs or impairing perception — a user should not drive or operate heavy machinery. On the other hand, if we are talking about using it to treat symptoms of a dread disease or incurable pain, maybe its use could be considered as safe enough. Safety and efficacy go hand in hand.



Is marijuana useful medicinally?



The subject is so politically charged it almost defies looking at it objectively from a medical point of view. That said, I don't know any legitimate form of medicine that is delivered by rolling up leaves and igniting them. If there is a legitimate medical use for marijuana, it is not in a form that has so many negative side effects. As far as lowering intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients, it is not very effective.

I wouldn't use it to replace the drugs that are used for glaucoma. Perhaps, it could be useful to relieve the pain associated with terminal illness. If someone has a one-way ticket to the next existence, I don't think it would be harmful to allow him to use marijuana if it makes him feel better. I wouldn't call that so much medicine; I might call it palliative care. I think of someone who has constant pain and is bedridden — the humanistic part of me says that wouldn't be such a bad thing if they were able to smoke a joint, if that made them more productive members of society. But if they let the genie out of the bottle and you have people toking away from coast to coast, that would be a bad thing. But I don't ever see this becoming major product on the market. Burning and inhaling smoke is not a feasible method of medical treatment.



Are there other possible delivery systems?



A synthetic form of the THC in marijuana, Marinol, is prescribed in a capsule for stimulating appetite in cancer and AIDS patients. It could eventually be used in an inhaler, creams, lozenges, or eye drops for glaucoma patients.

“I think of someone who has constant pain and is bedridden — the humanistic part of me says that wouldn’t be such a bad thing if they were able to smoke a joint if that made them more productive members of society. But if they let the genie out of the bottle and you have people toking away from coast to coast, that would be a bad thing.”

— Paul Doering, M.S.



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER



How do Marinol and marijuana compare in their classification and effectiveness?



Right now, marijuana is in the most highly controlled category — a Schedule I controlled substance, which are drugs that are not recognized as having any medical benefit. Marinol is a Schedule III drug. Marinol comes on slower but lasts longer — it won’t get you high. People want it to act immediately — to get that rush. Because of this Marinol has not been that popular, which leads me to believe there is a secondary agenda to the medical marijuana movement.



What potential, if any, is there in marijuana use for medicinal purposes?



There is a lot to be learned about marijuana, how it affects the brain, how it works. There is a drug that is on the horizon that is based on research on cannabinoids. Researchers have discovered a receptor in the brain for marijuana. If you are able to block that receptor, it turns out you dull your appetite. So you take the drug and you don’t want to smoke or eat. It has the potential as an appetite suppressor. So there are powerful reactions in the body and I’m in favor of studying that.

You can get philosophical about the issue of how can you make a plant illegal: Why has God put THC in the marijuana plant? You can say God has a purpose for it. Or you could say the secondary plant compounds have evolved in the plant for the protection of the plant. You can ask why does the brain have a receptor that fits marijuana? Or morphine? I think we need to put considerably more research effort where we haven’t been looking — into the understanding of the chemical and medical properties of plants. Twenty-five percent of prescription drugs on the market today have their origins in plant or animal sources. I think maybe it is time to go back to our roots and look at these compounds in a systematic way. That is the way I would like to see this headed, not patients toking away in the hospital. **P**

DISTINCTIONS

DENTISTRY

ROGER B. FILLINGIM,

Ph.D., is the author of a new book, "Concise Encyclopedia of Pain Psychology," published by Haworth Press Inc. Fillingim's book, which will become available this summer, is marketed as a broad reference source of clinical and scientific pain psychology topics from A to Z. Pain psychology terms, descriptions, definitions and important findings are listed in the book and supported by an extensive bibliography to facilitate more in-depth study of the topics.



MARCIO GUELMANN,

D.D.S., has been accepted into the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute's 2005-06 class, which consists of 22 of the nation's most promising dental faculty. As a member of the ADEA Leadership Institute, Guelmann will attend a series of national workshops in the next 12 months that develop and refine participants' leadership, legislative, administrative and teaching competencies.



MARC HEFT, D.M.D., Ph.D.,

is appointed acting chair for the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences. Heft assumes the position from M. Franklin Dolwick, D.M.D., Ph.D., who stepped down for personal reasons. Dolwick, who recommended Heft to the college's dean as a candidate for acting chair, continues to serve as the head of the oral and maxillofacial surgery division and director of hospital dentistry for Shands HealthCare.



NELSON S. LOGAN, Ph.D.,

former director of multicultural affairs at dentistry, received a Presidential Citation from UF's Frank Catalanotto, 2004-05 president of the American Dental Education Association, during the association's March 82nd Annual Session in Baltimore. The citation recognized Logan's 35-year career of promoting cultural and ethnic diversity in dental admissions at the University of Iowa and UF. Logan, who is revered by the students he has mentored, left UF last December to pursue his lifelong love of aviation.



LIBRARY

PAMELA SHERWILL-NAVARRO,

HSC liaison librarian to the College of Nursing, recently won the 2005 Ida and George Eliot Prize from the national Medical Library Association. The Eliot Prize is presented annually for work published in the preceding calendar year that has been judged most effective in furthering medical librarianship. Sherwill-Navarro and her co-author were honored for their 2004 article, "Research on the value of medical library services: does it make an impact in the health care literature?" Their article examined four research articles on the relationship between the use of clinical library services and the quality of health care and demonstrated the importance of library research in clinical care and decision-making.



PHARMACY

NICHOLAS BODOR,

Ph.D., D.Sc., director of the UF Center for Drug Discovery is receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from UF for his extraordinary contributions in pharmaceutical research to improve the therapeutic effectiveness of medications. His accomplishments as a scientist, scholar and leader have had a significant influence on health care, said William Riffée, Ph.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy. Bodor is a graduate research professor emeritus (active) in the department of pharmaceuticals, and serves as chief executive officer of the IVAX Drug Research Institute in Budapest, Hungary.



PHHP

DAVID FULLER, Ph.D.,

an assistant professor in the department of physical therapy, is one of four winners of the 2005 Young Investigator Awards sponsored by the American Physiological Society. The awards recognize society members who have demonstrated outstanding potential in the field of physiology. A \$20,000 prize will be made to UF on behalf of Fuller.



ELENA ANDRESEN, Ph.D.,

a professor and chief of the division of epidemiology in the department of health services research, management and policy, has been



named to the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Disability in America. She will be among a group of disability experts whose task is to review the new literature and developments since the Institute of Medicine's report, "Disability in America," was published in 1991.

STUDENTS

JEFFREY FLEIGEL, a dental senior, and BALIGH YEHIA, a third-year medical student,

were honored with the UF Hall of Fame Award on April 13. The Hall of Fame Award, established in 1921, is the highest honor



Fleigel



Yehia

the university bestows on senior student leaders in recognition of scholastic achievement and leadership in improving the university through campus and community involvement.

WILLIAM ALLEN GRAY,

a dental sophomore and JURGITA HERRON, a Foreign Trained Dentist dental student were honored during the March 29 Multicultural Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Dean of Students Office.



Gray

Gray received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership



Herron

and devoted service to improving the health of Gainesville residents.

Herron received the Outstanding Student for 2005 Award for her commitment to learning, outstanding work ethic and high standards of achievement.

JOE RICHARDSON, a sophomore dental student,

was awarded the UF President's Recognition of Outstanding Students award. Richardson received the award during the April 20 President's Recognition Reception, held to honor outstanding UF students who have made significant contributions to the university through academic, leadership or service achievement.



2004-2005 Superior Accomplishment Awards

The annual campuswide Superior Accomplishment awards recognize staff members who contribute meritorious service and who generally improve the quality of life for students and fellow employees at the university. HSC awards were distributed at the Division Five award ceremony on Thursday, March 24 at the Savannah Grande Reception and Conference Center. Winners were nominated by their peers for outstanding performance in

one of six staffing categories: support services, scientific/technical, clerical/office support, administrative/supervisory, administrative/professional or academic personnel. Each of this years division-level award winners received cash awards of \$200 and will go on to compete for university-level awards, which offer eight \$500 and six \$1,500 cash awards.

PHOTOS BY J.R. HERMSDORFER



Dentistry: Winners Cassandra B. "Sandy" Williams, Joseph G. Welch, Loretta L. Primosch, Gloria R. Griffis-Pagington, Kathleen W. Leigh, Joanne C. Kwiatkowski, Matthew J. Dennis, Sharon L. Cooper, Theresa M. Burford, with Cheryl O'Quinn (committee member), Robert Bates



Veterinary Medicine: Dean Joe DiPietro (left) with winners Lynn Varner, Jennifer Lopez, Joyce Stewart, Judy Bousquet, Sarah Carey, Mimi Zarate



VPHA: Doug Barrett (left) and Dennis Hines (right) with winners Edra M. Ijames, Charles J. Parks, Nina C. Stoyan-Rosenzweig

College of Dentistry

A.E. Buddy Clark Jr.
Sharon L. Cooper
Matthew J. Dennis
Loretta L. Primosch
Cassandra B. "Sandy" Williams
Gloria R. Pagington
Joanne C. Kwiatkowski
Kathleen W. Leigh
Theresa M. Burford
Joseph G. Welch

College of Medicine

Talha F. Nazir
Sandra K. Powers
Judith L. Allen
Amy M. Smith
Joan M. Crisman
Nicole T. Group
Cathy H. Hoover
John S. David

College of Nursing

Lisa H. Miller
Phyllis C. Stephens
Joan B. Hill

College of Pharmacy

Lynn M. Fowler
Karen P. Brown
Phyllis M. Wright

College of Public Health and Health Professions

Shankarana Manamalkav
Andrea M. Burne

College of Veterinary Medicine

Sarah K. Carey
Judy A. Bousquet
Lynn E. Varner
Miriam J. "Mimi" Zarate
James M. Van Gilder
Jennifer L. Lopez
Joyce E. Stewart

Student Health Care Center

Tracey B. Niblack
Maricelly T. Rodriguez
Jacquelyn Y. Green

Office of the Sr Vice President for Health Affairs

Nina C. Stoyan-Rosenzweig
Charles J. Parks
Edra M. Ijames

See more photos from the event at www.news.health.ufl.edu under *Accolades*.

Practice-based dental research networks receive \$75 million

By Lindy McCollum Brounley

The National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR) have invested \$75 million to establish three regional practice-based research networks. NIH/NIDCR awarded \$25 million of this amount to UF's College of Dentistry and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry to establish a southeast regional network — named the Dental Practice-based Research Network — to conduct dental practice-based research over a 7-year period. The UF/UAB and its sister networks created by the \$75 million grant will investigate with scientific rigor the everyday issues faced by dentists in their practices during the delivery of oral healthcare.

“This is a major effort by the NIDCR and signals a new approach to clinical dental research,” said Ivar Mjör, B.D.S., M.S.D., M.S., Dr. odont., eminent scholar, professor of operative dentistry at UF and co-chair of the Dental PBRN. “The emphasis here is not on basic laboratory research, but on real-world problems that dentists face every day in their practices.”

NIDCR's intent is that each of the three regional dental practice-based clinical research networks will involve 100 or more practicing dentists and/or hygienists from at least two states in each research project. These dental practitioners will be recruited and trained as practitioner-investigators. This approach enables networks to draw from a diverse patient base to better address a broad spectrum of racial, ethnic and socio-economic factors that dental professionals encounter every day in their offices. The practitioner-investigators will draw from their own clinical practice patient base to investigate practical, real-world issues and generate data that will be of immediate interest to practitioners and their patients.

The UF/UAB Dental PBRN includes dentists from Alabama, Florida and Georgia who will conduct approximately 15 to 20 short-term and cross-sectional clinical studies over the next seven years, comparing the benefits of different dental procedures, dental materials and prevention strategies under a range of patient and clinical conditions. The Dental PBRN will also have extensions into dental practices in Minnesota, Oregon and Scandinavia. Anonymous chart reviews to generate retrospective data on disease, treatment trends and the prevalence of less common oral conditions may also be conducted.

Details of the Dental PBRN have been published on the network's page located at www.dentalpbrn.org and it will be updated regularly as the work progresses. The first study to be conducted will be on dental restorations.

“The identification of problems faced by clinicians in practice is considered very important, including the effect this identification will have on the dental research agenda sponsored by NIDCR and other funding agencies,” said Mjör. **P**



PHOTO BY LINDY BROUNLEY

Gregg Gilbert (left) professor and chair of diagnostic sciences at University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry, and Ivar Mjör, (right) eminent professor of operative dentistry at UF, are co-chairs of the \$25.3 million, NIDCR-funded Dental PBRN. The Dental PBRN, one of three such federally-funded networks, includes hundreds of dentists and oral hygienists who will serve as “practitioner-investigators” to contribute to the networks clinical research programs.

The making of a Bioinformatics Librarian

Mix equal parts vision, science and exuberance

By John Pastor

Michele Tennant has been a librarian for nearly a decade, and she has yet to “shush” anyone.

But she has taught students and scientists alike to use databases to learn about gene therapies, bioengineered crops, the genetic foundations of diseases and drug responses — even about the diversity and organization of life itself.

Not exactly the work of your parents’ librarians, unless one of your parents happens to have been named Watson or Crick.

More to the point, Tennant is a prime example of today’s UF Health Science Center librarian. A holder of advanced degrees, with a doctorate in biology from Wayne State as well as a master’s degree in library science from the University of California, Los Angeles, Tennant partners with faculty to integrate information skills and resources into the teaching curriculum.

“I haven’t yet checked out a book to anyone, either,” smiles Tennant, lightly dispelling some of the myths that have grown up around librarians. A few personal touches mingle with the requisite books and files at her desk on the first floor of the library, including some memorabilia from Detroit Pistons basketball games. An avid fan, Tennant and her husband, Michael Miyamoto, Ph.D., a UF professor and associate chairman of zoology, have gone to Pistons games in Los Angeles, Orlando, Miami and Detroit. They even caught the Pistons’ win over Los Angeles in the fourth game of the championship series last year.

Nearby, artwork reminiscent of the reptile exhibit at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans hangs on the wall and a couple of plastic, gecko-like creatures lounge on the computer tower. Leaning inconspicuously in a small bookcase is a copy of “Straight from the Stacks: A Firsthand Guide to Careers in Library and Information Science,” published by the American Library Association.

“It was quite a surprise,” Tennant says, referring to the book. “I was interviewed about what I do and I didn’t think much more about it, until one day a copy of the book was sent to me.”

In it, Tennant is featured as a bioinformatics librarian, a position that was developed in 2001 by the Health Science Center Libraries and the UF Genetics Institute. Her specialty, bioinformatics, uses information and computers to solve biological problems.

Of course, Tennant answers traditional reference and library-use questions, goes to committee meetings, publishes scholarly papers and is involved in library associations. Recently, she was elected to the UF Faculty Senate.

But beyond that, Tennant is an authority at sifting through the abundance of data — not all of it created equal — that surrounds genetic research. She conducts literature searches for Genetics Institute colleagues, but in the spirit of showing someone how to fish so that they will eat for a lifetime, she teaches scientists and students not only how to find data, but also how to find it from reliable sources.

Much of Tennant’s time is devoted to teaching students ranging from undergraduate to graduate-medical school levels. She also innovates, pioneering a program to partner faculty with medical librarians to teach undergrads how to use genetic databases.

The idea sprouted in 1996, when Tennant and her husband wanted to enhance what undergraduate genetics students learned from lectures and textbooks. Rather than give the students a list of journal articles to find, they believed that the young scholars should use the same tools practicing geneticists use to solve their research problems.

“She’s a visionary,” says Faith Meakin, M.L.S., director of HSC Libraries. “As a scientist, she saw how valuable it would be for someone with a science background to support information services for researchers, for knowledge management and for teaching. With that in mind, Michele obtained a master’s degree in library and information science at UCLA. When she first came here almost 10 years ago, she moved the HSC librarians to develop a liaison program that libraries around the country emulate. She is the future of library services.”

Recently, the Medical Library Association recognized Tennant as the 2005 Estelle Brodman Academic Medical Librarian of the Year, a highly competitive award that usually goes to librarians who are clinically oriented — rarely to research librarians.

UF Genetics Institute Director Kenneth Berns, M.D., Ph.D., “toasted” Tennant for the prodigious achievement at the April UFGI executive board meeting. Diet Cokes and other sundry soft drinks were raised around the table in sincere appreciation.

“She really makes the Genetics Institute function as an institute,” Berns says. “With 125 faculty throughout the university, you need someone in the center like Michele who is a facilitator and a communicator.”

The work keeps her busy. But Tennant unabashedly says she loves it.

“I think we’re showing that libraries are an important part of the university’s research and teaching mission,” Tennant says. “If people still think libraries are just places to check out a book, they’re missing the main part of the story.” 

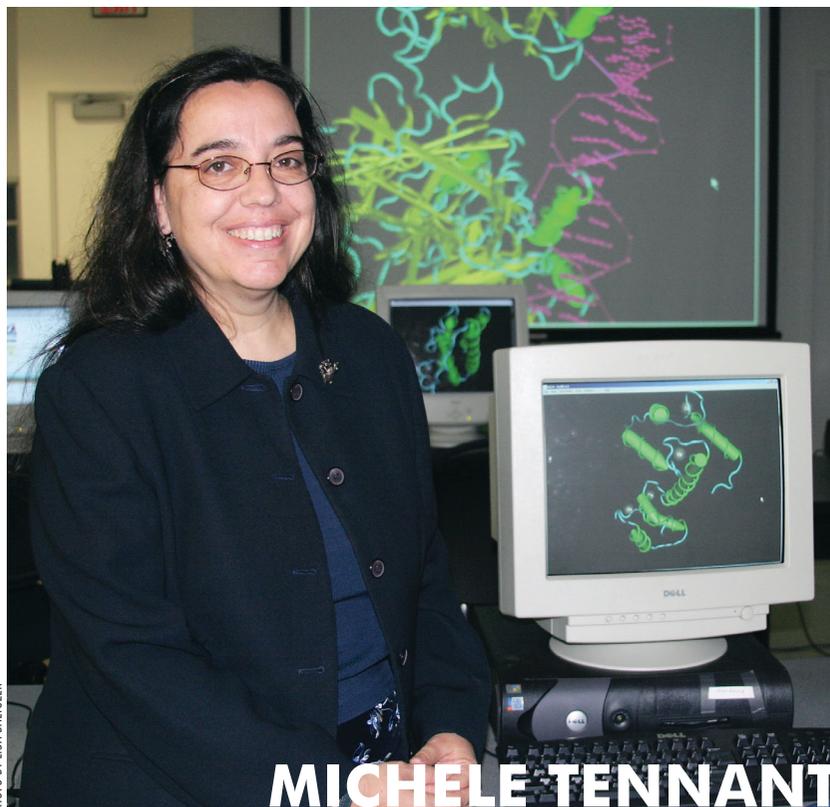


PHOTO BY USA BALITZER

LOOKIN' AT YOU



PHOTO BY DENISE TRUNK

Class of 2005 College of Nursing graduates Annie Alvarez and David Seal share a bite and a laugh at the year-end nursing barbecue outside the Public Health & Health Professions/Pharmacy/Nursing complex.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FONG WONG

Fong Wong, B.S.D., D.D.S., M.S.D., assistant professor of prosthodontics in the College of Dentistry, ran the first-ever Ocean City Maryland Marathon on April 16 to benefit CASA and other Maryland organizations serving abused and neglected children. Wong finished the 26.2 mile course that winds through the coastal Assateague State Park — home of the famous wild Chincoteague ponies — in four hours, 32 minutes and 27 seconds. She placed 7th out of 19 women in her age group and 59th of 150 female runners.

THE POST

05•05

Published by

UF Health Science Center
Office of News & Communications

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs

Douglas J. Barrett, M.D.

Director, News & Communications

Tom Fortner

Editor

Denise Trunk

Senior Editors

Melanie Fridl Ross, John Pastor

Art Director

Lisa Baltozer

Staff Writers

Tracy Brown, Sarah Carey, Tom Fortner, Linda Homewood, Lindy McCollum-Brounley, Patricia McGhee, John Pastor, Jill Pease, Melanie Fridl Ross, Denise Trunk

Support Staff

Cassandra Jackson, Beth Powers, Kim Smith

Intern

Leah Cochran

The POST is the monthly internal newsletter for the University of Florida Health Science Center, the most comprehensive academic health center in the Southeast, with campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville and affiliations throughout Florida. Articles feature news of interest for and about HSC faculty, staff and students. Content may be reprinted with appropriate credit. Ideas for stories are welcome. The deadline for submitting items to be considered for each month's issue is the 15th of the previous month. Submit to the editor at dtrunk@ufl.edu or deliver to the Office of News & Communications in the Communicore Building, Room C3-025.

www.news.health.ufl.edu

UF Health Science
CENTER



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA