Transplanted Cells Produce Insulin In Lacy Research

Dr. Paul E. Lacy, Mallinckrodt Professor and chairman, Department of Pathology, WU School of Medicine, recently published the results of research on islet cell transplantation, creating great interest within the scientific community.

The newly discovered method of islet cell transplantation overcomes the problem of rejection by the immune system, facilitating successful delivery of insulin to diabetic rats.

Islet cells in the pancreas are responsible for the secretion of insulin, a hormone which regulates blood sugar levels in the body. In diabetes, production of this hormone is either diminished (as in adult-onset diabetes) or virtually nonexistent (as in juvenile diabetes). To date, oral medication or daily injections of insulin have been the only means of treating this serious, often life-threatening, medical problem.

Dr. Lacy took islets from healthy black rats, maintained them at room temperature for seven days and transplanted them to diabetic rats of various strains, supporting the procedure with a single injection of an immunosuppressive antibody. In every case, the diabetic rats began to produce their own insulin from the beta cells within the islets and have survived for an indefinite period without rejecting the "foreign" islet cells.

A key to the procedure employed by Dr. Lacy is the seven-day incubation period at room temperature, which alters the "passenger" white blood cells responsible for activating the body's immune responses. Cells treated in this fashion remain alive, but are totally unable to recognize foreign tissue. Since rejection is one of the greatest barriers to successful transplantation, the results of these experiments are significant.

Dr. Lacy's research was conducted with the collaboration of two other WU scientists, Dr. Joseph M. Davie, head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunol-
Professor Ira J. Hirsh Is Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Ira J. Hirsh, director of research at the Central Institute for the Deaf (CID) and professor of psychology at WU, has been elected a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

Hirsh was among 60 new members recognized by the academy for “their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.” He is the first WU psychologist to be elected to the academy and the tenth member of the WU faculty to be so honored.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the advancement of science and its use for the general welfare. Election to the academy is often regarded as one of the highest honors that can be accorded an American scientist or engineer.

Within the broad area of the perception of speech, Hirsh’s research has concentrated on three major facets. One has been his study of the importance of the interaction of both ears in localizing and distinguishing speech in a noisy setting. One consequence of this phenomenon is the inability of people who hear naturally or artificially through only one ear to pinpoint one voice amid many noises and eliminate interfering sounds.

Another aspect of his work has been concerned with the psychological mechanisms, established in infancy, that provide a storehouse of speech patterns and rules, allowing perception of speech even when the sounds are incomplete.

Recently, Hirsh has been studying auditory perception in general and the perception of music patterns in particular. One of his hypotheses is that human beings have an innate ability to recognize musical patterns which is similar to their ability to recognize speech patterns.

His work in the interference of noise in the perception of speech has led to his involvement with the American National Standards Institute, the International Standards Organization and the Office of Noise Abatement (U.S. Department of Transportation). As a member, chairman, delegate and consultant to these organizations, he has helped develop recommendations for measuring levels of noise and assessing its damage to hearing, particularly in factories and near airports. A number of these recommendations have been adopted by both federal and international regulatory bodies.

Hirsh joined the staff of the CID as a research associate and the faculty of WU as an assistant professor of psychology in 1951. He was appointed professor of psychology in 1961 and director of research at the Institute in 1965. From 1969 to 1973, he served as dean of the faculty of Arts and Sciences at WU.

Hirsh received a bachelor of arts degree from the New York State College for Teachers in 1942 and a master of arts degree in speech from Northwestern University in 1943. At Harvard University, he earned master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees in experimental psychology in 1947 and 1948.

Hirsh is a fellow of the American Speech and Hearing Association, the Acoustical Society of America, serving as president in 1967-68, and the American Psychological Association. He is also a member of the International Society of Audiology, the Society of Experimental Psychologists and is on the Board of Governors of the American Institute of Physics.

Gass (continued from page 1)

forthcoming book, The House of VI Book. It is concerned with the relationship between language and architecture. Eisenman and Gass were both speakers last November at a symposium, “Directions,” sponsored by the WU School of Architecture, which brought together prominent architects and critics to discuss trends in architecture.

In June, Gass and authors John Barth and John Hawkes will participate in the National German Conference on American Contemporary Literature at the University of Tübingen, Germany. The conference is the annual meeting of the German Association for American Studies. Following the conference, the three writers will take part in readings at the University of Munich and at the Sorbonne in Paris. Gass will also read from his works and lecture at the University of Cologne and the University of Berlin.

TWO COMPOSITIONS

by Harold Blumenfeld, WU professor of music, were included recently in a concert of new music for voice in New York’s Carnegie Recital Hall. Soprano Rosalind Rees was the soloist for Blumenfeld’s “Circle of the Eye,” a song cycle for voice and piano which received its world premiere at the concert, and “Rilke Songs,” for voice and guitar. Other performers were David Starobin, guitar, and Paul Suits, piano.

DAVID SHELDON HATCHER, WU associate professor of civil engineering, and Erwin Y. Rodin, WU professor of applied math and computer science, have received the 1979 Professor of the Year Awards. These awards are presented annually by the graduating class of the WU School of Engineering to faculty members who show special dedication to two professors “who have excelled in guiding students to intellectual achievement and personal accomplishment.” The awards were established in 1968.
Announcements

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH honored winners of its annual poetry contest at a departmental meeting in the Hurst Lounge, Duncer Hall, on Wed., April 25. Judges for the poetry contest were Mona Van Duyn and Pamela White Hadas. Fifty-two students (both undergraduate and graduate students) submitted entries. The recipients and their awards were: Dwight Homer, graduate student, The Norma Lowry Memorial Poetry Prize, $80; Michael Phlegley, graduate student, Honorable Mention; Annie Flanigan, undergraduate, The Roger Conant Hatch Poetry Prize, $100; Lori Jo Miller and Susan Flick, undergraduates, Honorable Mention; Chip Elliott, undergraduate, The Jinx Walker Poetry Prize of the Academy of American Poets, $100; Deidre Boyd, undergraduate, Honorable Mention. Copies of the winning poems have been printed in a booklet and are available in the English Department office. An award of $25 was presented to Susan Mizruchi, winner of The F. Ward Denys Prize, given annually to a sophomore for excellence in work in English.

DONALD RICHEL, the West’s foremost critic of Japanese film and former curator of film at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City, will speak on “The Japanese Film: Some Versions of Reality” at Washington University, Sun., May 6, at 3 p.m. The talk, which is being given as part of the University’s three-day Japanese drama festival May 4-6, will be held in Mallinckrodt Center, Room 325. It is free and open to the public. Richie, who has been film critic for the international edition of Newsweek and for The Japan Times, has written books, essays and films on Japan as well as on its films. Among his books on Japanese films are two on the great Japanese directors Yasujiro Ozu and Akira Kurosawa (Ozu—University of California Press, Berkeley, 1974; The Films of Akira Kurosawa—University of California Press, 1970).

THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND RECREATION will sponsor a Physical Fitness Program for faculty, staff and graduate students from May 21 through July 28. Emphasis will be placed on cardiovascular endurance, muscle tone and flexibility using carefully graded exercises, along with progressive jogging to promote one’s physical fitness. Each participant progresses at his or her own rate and exercise is prescribed based on individual capabilities. A pre- and post-fitness evaluation to determine cardiovascular improvement and body composition measurements is included as an optional part of the program. The program will be offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. under the direction of Rand Rosenthal. The fee for this program is $35 plus $10 for the optional fitness test. For additional information and application forms call Rosenthal at Ext. 5140.

Chair in Ophthalmology is Established
In Honor of Dr. Bernard Becker

WU will establish a chair in ophthalmological research, the Bernard Becker Research Professorship in Ophthalmology, Chancellor William H. Danforth has announced.

The chair is being endowed in honor of Dr. Bernard Becker on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as head of the Department of Ophthalmology at the WU School of Medicine.

Friends, colleagues and patients have already contributed $500,000 of the $600,000 required to support the chair. A drive to secure the balance was announced April 27 by Dr. Robert C. Drews, local ophthalmologist and spokesperson for the steering committee of the fund, during the department’s annual alumni meeting and banquet.

“We are particularly proud of Dr. Becker as a researcher, teacher and scholar; under his leadership the Washington University School of Medicine has established one of the strongest eye departments in the nation. The endowment of this chair will insure the continued atmosphere of investigation and productive research which has characterized the department and brought it international acclaim,” Danforth said.

Dr. Becker’s 300 scholarly publications have informed and altered the field on a broad range of topics from ocular tuberculosis and diabetic retinopathy to cataracts and glaucoma. He established the Glaucoma Center, which has produced major breakthroughs in the understanding, treatment and control of the disease. Genetic research at the center has revealed new insights into the hereditary nature of glaucoma.

It is in large measure because of Dr. Becker’s efforts and the center that glaucoma tests are now included in all regular eye examinations. This research has considerably advanced the science of ophthalmology and has, both directly and indirectly, affected the treatment and care of thousands of eye patients.

Dr. Becker, who received his training at the Harvard Medical School and Johns Hopkins Hospital, has contributed immeasurably to the ophthalmological education of thousands of medical students and more than 300 residents.

Friends, alumni and other individuals interested in obtaining more information on the professorship or desiring to make a contribution to the drive may call or write Clifford Ohle, director of development for the WU School of Medicine, 889-5224, or WU Campus Box 1210.

ROBERT E. SPARKS, professor of chemical engineering and chairman of the biomedical engineering program, has been elected president of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO).
Calendar

May 4-10

FRIDAY, MAY 4
4 p.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Seminar, “Nerve Growth Factor and Epidermal Growth Factor: Inducers of Tyrosine Hydroxylase,” Rosanne Goodman, Department of Biological Chemistry, UCLA. Erlanger Aud., 4570 McKinley.

SATURDAY, MAY 5
9 a.m. School of Dental Medicine Course, “The Clinical Application of Dental Materials,” Dr. Wilmer B. Eames, prof. of operative dentistry, Emory U. School of Dentistry, WU School of Dental Medicine, 4559 Scott. To register, call 454-0387.
12 noon. WU Woman’s Club Luncheon. There will be a business meeting, election of officers, and a musical performance. Missouri Athletic Club. Call 822-0056 for reservations.

MONDAY, MAY 7
8:30 a.m. Center for the Study of Data Processing Seminar, “Intensive Database Programming,” directed by the staff of center. 199 Cupples I. The course continues through May 18. To register, call 889-5330.
4 p.m. 20th Shaffer Lecture, “Nuclear Spin and Chemical Analogue Probes of ATP Reactions,” Dr. Mildred Cohn, U. of Penn. School of Medicine. Moore Aud., 660 S. Euclid.

TUESDAY, MAY 8
4 p.m. Rheumatology Department Seminar, “What Do T Cells See?” Dr. Ethan M. Shevach, Laboratory of Immunology, National Institutes of Health. Steinberg Amph., Jewish Hospital.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

Performing Arts
FRIDAY, MAY 4
8 p.m. Japanese Theatre Festival Performance, The Forty-Seven Samurai. Performed by a company from the U. of Hawaii, directed by Nakamura Matagoro. Edison Theatre. Admission $4.80; $3.75 for WU faculty, staff and area students; $2 for WU students. Tickets available at Edison Box Office.

Music
SUNDAY, MAY 6
4 p.m. Organ Recital, Mark Allendorf, soloist. 2nd Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster.
MONDAY, MAY 7
8 p.m. Department of Music Graduate Percussion Recital, Mark Tate, soloist. Graham Chapel.
TUESDAY, MAY 8
8 p.m. Department of Music Graduate Trombone Recital, David Bruenger, soloist. Graham Chapel.
THURSDAY, MAY 10
8 p.m. Department of Music Student Piano Recital, with Sandra Sprecher, soloist. Graham Chapel.

Films
FRIDAY, MAY 4
6 and 10:15 p.m. WU Filmboard Double Feature, “The Man With the Golden Gun” and “You Only Live Twice” (8 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.). Brown. Admission $1.50 for either or both films. (Also Sat., May 5, same times, Brown.)

Exhibitions
“Master Prints from the WU Collection,” an exhibit of works by printmakers of the 16th through 20th centuries including Durer, Rembrandt, Goya and Picasso. WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 p.m., Sat., Sun. May 6-June 17.

“School of Fine Arts Undergraduate Exhibit,” including student works in all media. WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall, and Bixby Gallery, in the School of Fine Arts. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., both galleries; 1-5 p.m., Sat., Sun., WU Gallery of Art only. May 6-20. A reception will be held Sun., May 6, 3-5 p.m., in the WU Gallery in Steinberg.