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Honors
Frieden, Watson to receive faculty achievement awards

By Ann Nicholson

O

of the world's leading
archaeologists and an
authority on protein
structure and folding will receive
Washington University's second
annual faculty achievement
award this week. Carl Frieden,
Ph.D., the
Alumni Endowment Professor
and head of the
Department of
Biochemistry and Molecule
Biology at the
School of Medicine, is the
recipient of the
1999-2000
Compton Faculty Achievement
Award. The awards recognize
outstanding academic accom-
plishments and service.

The faculty
achievement awards
provide a wonderful
opportunity annually to recognize
two standout members among the
University's many fine
scholars and professors.

Mark S. Wrighton

Dr. Frieden
will address the
University community at
the award ceremony next fall, summariz-
ing their scholarly work.

"Carl Frieden is an interna-
tionally known biochemist
who has been a center of
creative research in the
early days of the
field," said Arnold W.
Strasse, M.D., the Alumni
Professor of Pediatrics at the
medical school and outgoing chair of
the Faculty Senate Council,
which established the award.

"Even after more than 40
tears at Washington University,
he continues exciting work in the
laboratory and serves as a role
model and mentor for young
bench scientists."

"Professor Watson has shown
"Professor Watson has shown
generous and supportive friends,"
said Chancellor Mark S.
Wrighton, announcing the
commitment. "Establishing a
distinguished professorship is one
of the many meaningful ways in
which they've shown their long-
standing devotion to the Univer-
sity and the Olin School."

Stuart L. Greenbaum, dean of
the business school, also
expressed his gratitude for the
new professorship. "I'm delighted
that the Wallace's generosity
allows us to honor outstanding
faculty such as Paddy
Padmanabhan," Greenbaum said.

"Such gifts help the Olin School
attract and retain world-class
faculty and contribute to its rise
to one of the nation's premier
business schools."

Padmanabhan was on the
faculty of Stanford University,
Northwestern University and the
European international business
school INSEAD in France before
joining the faculty here as
an assistant professor in 1998.

He teaches customer-focused
marketing management, services
marketing, advanced services
marketing and contemporary
marketing channels and pursues
research interests in those areas.

He has been published in many
scholarly journals, including
Marketing, Science and Manage-
ment Science.

Padmanabhan earned a
doctoral degree and master of
science degree from the Univer-
sity of Texas at Dallas. He received
a bachelor's degree in technology
from the Institute of Technology
Bengare Hindu University in
New Delhi.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Assessing water quality
Gregg McKee of Ladue (kneeling) and Robert and Lisa Street of
Clayton conduct tests at Tyson Research Center as part of the Lifelong Learning Institute's "Aquatic Ecosystems" course Saturday, April 15. The couples won the Olin Field Science Program's "Science to the Classroom" award for the class, in which 12 participants explored a pond and creek, learned about chemical testing methods and biocoenosis and evaluated aquatic organisms. The University's Lifelong Learning Institute provides a wide range of educational opportunities for older adults.

Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D., and Carl Frieden, Ph.D., visit at the Chancellor's Gala Saturday, April 15, following the announcement of their selection as recipients of the University's second annual faculty achievement awards.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

WU shines with Trumps; all four entries are finalists

By Tony Fitzpatrick

Washington University is one of
only seven universities to
place all four of its applicants —
the maximum allowed — as
finalists in the competition for the
prestigious Harry S. Truman
Scholarships. Two, Arts & Sciences
juniors Sarah Johnson and Kaye
Brooker, went on to win the awards. Applicants included

students from 311 institutions
nationwide.

"Professors and faculty of Stanford University,
Northwestern University and the
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New Delhi.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Life's origins
Researchers find intriguing possibility in volcanic gases

By Tony Fitzpatrick

Washington University geologists have developed
theoretical calculations about how life might have arisen from
volcanic gases on Earth, Mars and
other celestial bodies.

Analyzing ash, lava and
magma chemical compositions
from nine representative volca-
noes around the world, geologists
Evelyn L. Shock, Ph.D., professor
of earth and planetary sciences in
Arts & Sciences, and Mikhail E.
"Misha" Zolotov, Ph.D., senior
research scientist, describe a
scenario in which initial volcanic
gases spewing from the Earth as
hot as 1,200 degrees Celsius (cool
down to a relatively low tempera-
ture of 150-300 °C.

Shock and Zolotov have shown
that, in this temperature range,
environmental and chemical conditions are ripe
for formation of basic hydrocar-
bons — a wide range of carbon-
based compounds essential for
life — from the hydrogen and
Carbon monoxide present in
the volcanic gases.

For decades researchers
observing volcanic rocks have
detected a fine film of organics on
the rocks' mineral surfaces,
leading to endless speculation
about the film's source. Many
thought that the organic com-
ponents were stable parts of the
Earth's mantle brought up over
time through volcanic activity. Others held that the organic
mixtures condensed and con-
centrated in volcanic gases during
eruptions. The Shock-Zolotov
calculations show that the latter
process is more likely.

Conditions favorable for
hydrocarbon synthesis also could be
favorable for other life
ingredients, such as amino acids
and complex organic polymers,
leading, perhaps, to self-
replicating RNA molecules and
eventually to all sorts of cells and
diverse organisms.

The calculations take into
consideration temperatures, gas
composition, physicochemical
states of the gases and geophysical
conditions of the individual volcanoes. They are valuable as a framework
for researchers setting up experi-
ments and testing results, and they
Monopolyville members of Delta Gamma sorority and Sigma Nu fraternity perform "Monopolyville" at the University’s Thurne Carnival Saturday, April 15. With the audience transported into one of America’s favorite board games, the plot thickened as Mr. Hat kidnapped Rich Uncle Pennybags, the mayor of Monopolyville, with Thimble and Penny working to fill his evil plans. Thimble was played by sophomore Jonas Feliciano (front left), with Freshman Jamie Rosenthal (left) as Penny. Back-up singers (from left) Community, Chest and Chance were portrayed by freshman Carly Osmany, senior Yael Berkovich and junior Whitney Wallers.

V. "Paddy" Padmanaban (left) receives congratulations from Dean Stuart I. Greenbaum following his installation April 12 as the first John K. Wallace Jr. and Ellen A. Wallace Distinguished Professor of Business. He is a past president of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society and a past president of the business school's alumni association. A recipient of the school's Distinguished Alumni Award for success in his career, Wallace also has received awards for his service to the University as a whole. He is active in many civic and cultural institutions, among them the Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Zoo and the Municipal Theatre Association of St. Louis. Ellen Wallace, his wife, also has enjoyed success in business. In 1990 she became a founding partner of Farmhouse Collection Inc., a manufacturer offering unique, high-end handcrafted furniture to the designer trade industry. Together with her partners, Wallace developed the firm into the nationally recognized company it is today, supported by 17 regional showrooms.

EisenhowerSEARCH

Trumanns

His primary focus to North America, and Turkey, and then shifted her research and scholarship; archaeology and her interdisciplinary studies during the past three years. She has developed for recovering charred botanical remains from archaeological sites. She has been a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the AAAS.

Frieden focused on a major unsolved problem in biochemistry — how proteins, which begin as long strings of amino acid residues, fold into their correct shapes, given the 20 amino acids and the possible 3D configurations. He is using a variety of techniques to examine the structures of intermediates that arise during folding and is exploring the number of different protein systems. They include infectious fatal and benign proteins involved in viral infection, in protein aggregation, and in viral and the catalytic mechanisms of cancer and the catalytic mechanisms of cancer and antitumor drugs.

Frieden came to the medical school as a postdoctoral fellow in 1995 and has been on the faculty since 1997. In 1988, he was selected as one of the 50 recipients of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and selected as one of the 50 recipients of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science.
AIDS drugs could lead to bone loss

BY NICOLE VINES

Researchers are tackling on bone deterioration to the list of hazards associated with potent AIDS medications. However, they consider it a small tradeoff for the dramatic cut in drug resistance among HIV patients taking these drugs.

Reporting in the March 16, 2000, issue of AIDS, Pablo Tebas, M.D., assistant professor of infectious diseases at the University of California, San Francisco, said that osteoporosis is a more severe form of osteopenia, with a higher risk of fracture. Osteopenia leaches minerals from bones, whereas osteoporosis makes bones porous. The state of bone disease is caused by uncontrolled cell proliferation, but it does demonstrate an association between osteopenic and osteoporotic patients. "We don't know if this effect results from the proteins that are released during the combination of protease inhibitors with the chemokines commonly used drugs called nucleoside analogs," Tebas said. "But that's something that must be studied prospectively, which is what we're doing now.

This research was conducted at the AIDS Clinical Trial Unit at the School of Medicine and supported by the National Institutes of Health.

Scans detect trouble

Initially, Tebas and his team were investigating osteopenia in HIV-positive patients who were on HAART. More than 50 percent of patients using protease inhibitors experience this metabolic problem, which causes fat to relocate from the thighs and the face and settle in the abdomen. Inefficiency in fat distribution can also indicate bone mass, the researchers began to observe that many of those patients had low bone-mineral density.

Taking the data from the fat-redistribution studies, Tebas divided the 12 male subjects into three groups: 60 HIV patients on HAART, 35 HIV patients on other medications or on no therapy and 17 HIV-negative subjects to serve as controls.

Using World Health Organization (WHO) criteria, researchers determined that half of the patients taking protease inhibitors met the WHO definition for osteoporosis. Twenty percent of the subjects taking HAART had low bone-mass loss compared with only 6 percent of the subjects on other medications.

"We also looked at whether there is a relationship between fat redistribution and osteopenia, but we found no association," Tebas said. "This may be because HIV-positive patients use protease inhibitors to continue taking antiretroviral medications. "Protease inhibitors seem to be a side effect of the therapy, these medicines have other side effects that can turn HIV infection into a chronic disease that we can manage on an outpatient basis and have dramatically reduced the mortality of AIDS."
Exhibitions


Lectures

Thursday, April 20


4:30 p.m. School of Art side lecture. "The AMICO Testbed Virtual Architectures." Ian Manners, prof. of computing and of music, Saint Louis U. 362-8873.


6 p.m. Music lecture. "On Writing Songs." Hugh McDonald, the Arts Blower. "We Will Sing." Room 100 Music Classrooms 362-4841.


Music

Saturday, April 22


Monday, April 24


Wednesday, April 26

7 p.m. Jazz concert. Wu-Jazz Band. Music of Coleman, McPartland, Coltrane, McPartland; Room 100 Music Classrooms 362-4841.
Olin Follies’ spoofs business school — all for a good cause

When students at the
John M. Olin School of
Business present the 53rd annual Olin Follies April 28, they’ll not only be poking fun at students, traditions, administrators, faculty and students, but they also will be raising money for a good cause.

Proceeds will go to the
Salvation Mission in downtown
St. Louis, according to Paul
Hunter, MBA 99, student
coordinator. The mission provides shelter, a drug
rehabilitation and rehabilitation
program, counseling sessions, a thrift store and after-school
computer programs. (Directors of the event are Tim and Carol
Clarkes, whose son, Anthony,
received an MBA from the
business school in 1995.

Tickets for “The Olin Zone,”
takoff on “The Twilight Zone,” are $5 per person for admission
only or $10 per person for admis.

Saturday, April 29
5 p.m. Plaza recha.
Oliver Pian, piano.
Music of Bach, Beethoven
and Schumann. Graham Hall. 935-4641.

On stage

Wednesday, April 26
8 p.m. Performing Arts Dept.
play. "g'night." Takara Abebe, author and
Harvey Scwry, dir. April 27 and 29.
2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Theater.
Women's softball vs. Mo. Baptist
Sunday, April 23
8 p.m. Piano recital.
Glen Pine, piano.
Prevcired. To register, contact Vu
outside Graham Chapel.

Worship

Thursday, April 20
7 a.m. St. John's Chapel's Holy
Thursday Mass. Catholic Student Center,
St. Louis. 935-4950.

Friday, April 21
7 p.m. Catholic Student Center's Good
Friday service. Catholic Student Center,
3552 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Saturday, April 22
7 p.m. Catholic Student Center's Easter

Sunday, April 23
11 a.m. Catholic Student Center's Easter
Sun Mass. Graham Hall. 935-9191.

Sports Section

Friday, April 21
7 p.m. Women's softball vs. Ms. Baptist
College. Softball field. 935-9191.

Saturday, April 22
7 p.m. Women's softball vs. DePaul/II. Kelt
Field. 935-9191.

Egg-citement on tap April 22

Children of faculty, staff.
and alumni — plus fun-loving
students — aren’t too busy to hop
the bunny trail 1-11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 22, for an Easter egg
hunts. Sponsored by Circle K
International and Alpha Phi.
During the festivities, the egg
and candy hunt will be held
outside Graham Chapel.

Advance registration is
preferred. To register, contact Vu
at 935-2578 or via e-mail
(vhe@artsci.wustl.edu).

Sports

Women's track
ties for team title;
men place fourth

The women's track and
field team continues its push
towards their first-ever
University Athletic Association
Championships. The Bears
were fourth in the team title at
the McKendree College Bearcat
Invitational Saturday, April 15.
The men's team finished
to fourth. The women won only
one event — Natasha Rich,
Trotter in the Summer throw
with a toss of 140.4 feet, 4
inches — but WU scored
well in almost every event. Rich-
son and Missey Kinke finished
eight in the 400 hurdles, while
Kyle Smith qualified provision-
ally for the NCAA champi-
nships in the 110 hurdles. There,
the Bears took third place in the
3,000-meter steeplechase.

Softball team
wins four of five

The University’s first-year
softball team continues to play
like a veteran squad as the Bears
won four of five games last
week to improve its 16-6 record
on the year.
The team swept a double-
header with Fontbonne College
Saturday, April 14, winning 8-1,
but the second game was called
due to technical difficulties
with the lights. The Bears swept
past Westminster College, 6-1
and 5-1, Sunday, April 16, to
push their winning streak to
four. Liz Smith tossed complete
games in all five contests,
winning. Four only a five-run
fifth in the top of the last
inning from Fontbonne in game
one kept her from a perfect
week. Anne Gregory knocked
the first home run of the year
at WU softball field, a grand slam,
in game one against Fontbonne.
She struck out a career-high
10 batters against Greenwood;
Sue Tucker hit an inside
the park home run.

Baseball wins two

The baseball team stretched its
winning streak to seven games
over Saint Louis University, 5-2,
April 10 and Illinois Wesleyan
University, 11-0, April 11,
beating consecutive losses to
Guaranteed Rate Field, 2-1.
April 5. Joe Urban.

Men’s tennis 2-2

The men’s tennis team
stretched its winning streak
to seven games over Saint Louis
University, 5-2, April 10 and
Illinois Wesleyan University,
11-0, April 11, before suffering
consecutive losses to Guaranteed
Rate Field, 2-1. April 5.

Peterson, scholar on
campus for lecture, reading

The Department of English
and the Creative Writing
Program, both in Arts &
Sciences, will sponsor a pair of events
with Irish poet Michael Longley and his
wife, the distinguished scholar
Edna Longley.

Edna Longley will speak on
"Contemporary Irish Writing in
Northern Ireland" at 3 p.m.
April 28 in the Leaves and will be
followed by a discussion and break
for coffee. At 5 p.m., Michael Longley
will read from his latest volume,
"The Weather in Japan." Both
events are free and open to the
public and take place in Hurst
Library, Hurst Hall.

For more than two decades,
Michael and Edna Longley have
demonstrated their penchant for
being active participants in what
has been the voice speaking within
it... that is release into
genius and insights
which achieve that which
always benevolent, always strange,
always an imagined angle of
reality, that makes it work a
 crucial and instructive part of
our contemporary poetry.

For more information, call
935-7131.

Thursday, April 20
4 p.m. Undergraduate Political
Science senior thesis defense. "Women in Politics,"
Peter Schott, featuring Katrina
Vigil. Women's History... of the Day. 935-9191.

Tuesday, April 21
5 p.m. Student Life at the Law
School. Graham Hall. 935-4641.

Wednesday, April 22
10 a.m. Panel discussion
"Women in Politics,"
Brianna King, Bailey Person,
Rebecca Schwarzbart, Priya
Natarajan and Katherine
Sagan. In addition, the editor of "Across a Roaring Hill: The Protestant
Imagination in Modern Ireland." Selected Paul
Duran.

And more...

Thursday, April 20
4 p.m. School of Law at
awards ceremony.
935-5858.

Thursday, April 27
6 p.m. Olin Follies. "The Olin Zone."
WU dinner. Holmes Lounge, 935-9191.

Monday, April 24
3 p.m. Men’s basketball.

Saturday, April 29
10 a.m. Women’s and men’s track and
Glen Pine Field. Track and Field. 935-8220.

Monday, April 24
8 p.m. Women's softball vs. Miilikin U.
Sunday, April 23
1 p.m. Women's softball vs. Westminster.
Sunday, April 23
3 p.m. Men's baseball vs. Westminster.

Sunday, April 23
1 p.m. Women’s softball vs. DePauw U.
Kelly Field. 935-8220.

Worship

Thursday, April 20
7 a.m. St. John's Chapel's Holy
Thursday Mass. Catholic Student Center,
St. Louis. 935-4950.

Friday, April 21
7 p.m. Catholic Student Center's Good
Friday service. Catholic Student Center,
3552 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Saturday, April 22
7 p.m. Catholic Student Center's Easter

Sunday, April 23
11 a.m. Catholic Student Center's Easter
Sun Mass. Graham Hall. 935-9191.

Brick by brick
Construction manager John Rozycki (left) discusses the installation of an additional 182 bricks for a Campus Campaign for Washington University bricks with two employing
students from the Construction Program.
The 182 additional bricks was installed last week in Joe Evans Plaza, just north of North Hall. Faculty, staff and parents of students can name a brick for each $500 given to the 1 billion campaign.

Poet, scholar on campus for
lecture, reading

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always an imagined angle of
reality, that makes it work a
 crucial and instructive part of
our contemporary poetry.

For more information, call
935-7131.
Origins

Researchers develop theoretical calculations — from page 1

should be integral in analysing Martian meteorites. They could, in fact, help settle controversy about the 1996 analysis of a Martian meteorite, which bore evidence of the kinds of organic compounds found in many terrestrial volcanic lava, magma and ash samples.

Shock and Zolotov published their results in the Journal of Geophysical Research. Their work was supported by the National Science Foundation and NASA.

The calculations show that life can arise not only from the gaseous crucible of present-day terrestrial volcanoes, but that it could have been present on planets that have developed billions of years ago on early Earth, Mars and Jupiter's satellite, Europa.

There is a solid body of evidence that shows life on Earth, at least, has been present here for billions of years, but life forms could have emerged billions of years ago on other planets that have since developed billions of years ago.

The Shock-Zolotov calculations show that life could have been present on Earth, at least, for millions of years, but not necessarily for millions of years on other planets that have since developed billions of years ago.

The calculations prove what can happen thermodynamically, but not necessarily what will happen. Developing them is an important first step in understanding this process. For the first time, we now have a quantified temperature zone in which hydrocarbons can form and a framework for understanding what conditions lead to hydrocarbon formation from volcanic gas.

There have been billions of experiments in this area over the years, but not a framework to better understand the process. Misha's calculations predict what kinds of chemical clues one should be on the organic compounds that are present.

Zolotov gathered data from volcanoes ranging from Mount St. Helens and Iceland's Surtsey to Sicily's Mount Etna and Hawaii's Kilauea. All of the volcanoes arose from different geological settings and produced initial gas temperatures of varying range.

"The calculations show that there is a potential for hydrocarbons to form during the cooling process, and that this condition also is promising for amino acids to develop," Zolotov said. "The process is not very efficient today. For instance, at Kilauea, the hydrogen and carbon monoxide amounts of the gases are more than 2 percent. But it still is a steady source for hydrocarbons to form.

"As for the origins of life — on Earth, at least, there are two basic competing views: one suggests that life was brought here by comet or meteorite impact or via a non-biological way. But the other hypothesis is that life was generated here, either at the ocean floor; or through a chain of events sparked by lightning, or in volcanic gases.

"Unlike spark discharge experiments for the solar system, here we are pursuing the study of origins of life here or on Mars are normal, as they are on Earth. This is our third hypothesis," Shock said. "The volcanic gas scenario is not an important first step, but it is an important next step because it is one of the most likely possibilities. The evidence is readily accessible, and we know we can extrapolate from evidence here to Mars and other bodies without much ambiguity."
Architecture school to honor distinguished alumnus

Mary Dell Pritzlaff receives "Searl Chair's "Search Award" for her exceptional efforts and contributions to the betterment of the school.

Bernetta Jackson, professor emerita of English and of education, passed away on April 20, 2000. Jackson joined the University in 1954 and taught for nearly 42 years. She was a dedicated educator and an active member of the community, serving on numerous boards and committees. She was known for her passion for teaching and her commitment to mentoring students. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues and students alike.

Mary Dell Pritzlaff receives "Searl Chair's "Search Award" for her exceptional efforts and contributions to the betterment of the school. She has received numerous awards, including the Association's Excellence in Architecture Award, Builder Award. Co-chair of the Great Circle of Women in Graduate Study at the University of Illinois.

“Black Americans and Jews in the Twentieth Century: Convergence and Conflict”

The late Nancy L. Grant, Ph.D., associate professor of history in Arts & Sciences, died April 16, 2000. Grant spent a lifetime teaching African American and Jewish interaction. Her work focused on the complex relationship between the two groups. She authored several essays on founding leaders, the foundation of the complex relationship of blacks and Jews in America. Published by the University of Illinois Press in 1985, the volume was first proposed by Grant as a way to preserve and circulate the innovative research and ideas presented at the 1996 conference.

Grant's initial compiling and editing work on the volume was completed by a team of editors led by V.P. Frank, a professor of history at Drexel University in Philadelphia, with assistance from Genia Rae McNeil, a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and from Grant's husband, Harold M. Kish, a programmer analyst at Washington University.

The compilation has been well-received in scholarly circles, and it provides a platform for future research in relation to the history of African American and Jewish interactions.

The 2000 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to James F. Pritzlaff, former director of New York City's Museum of Modern Art. Pritzlaff has had a long and successful career in the field of architecture, and he has contributed significantly to the field through his work and leadership.

The award was given in recognition of Pritzlaff's exceptional service to Washington University. William H. Danforth, president of Washington University, presented the award to Pritzlaff with a silver replica of the statue of Washington University's first president, the Rev. William Greenleaf Eliot. The award was given in recognition of Pritzlaff's exceptional service to Washington University.

The award was given in recognition of Pritzlaff's exceptional service to Washington University. The University also will award its Distinguished Alumni Award to Charles A. Wolf, a former professor of architecture at Washington University. Wolf has had a long and successful career in the field of architecture, and he has contributed significantly to the field through his work and leadership.

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With Big Ben in the background, the Rao family — Dabeeru, Sarada, Ravi (back row) and Lakshmi — pause for a photo during a vacation in London.

Dabeeru C. Rao, Ph.D., a professor of biostatistics and director of the School of Medicine’s Division of Biostatistics, studies how genes and environmental factors shape people’s lives — in particular, their risk of developing diseases. But the native of a small village in southeast India attributes his own success to less tangible factors: luck, determination to succeed and perseverance born of gratitude for family members who made sacrifices to help him achieve.

Rao’s father moved to Santabommalli, Andhra Pradesh, when he was 17. He took with him a new wife, a widowed mother, and no money or job prospects. Underbidding contractors for construction jobs in the area and investing in farming land, he was able to save money. Against his neighbors’ advice, he spent it all sending Dabeeru, his seventh-oldest child, followed the advice of his physician brother and became a statistician. “His vision was that I would do something nontraditional as a tribute to my father,” said Rao.

Several of Rao’s colleagues would argue that he has done much more than that.

Theodore Reich, M.D., the Samuel and Mae S. Ludwig Professor of Psychiatry and a genetics professor at the medical school, noted that Rao has made the biostatistics division nationally renowned while helping found the field of genetic epidemiology. “He is one of the giants of genetic epidemiology and one of its first great lights,” Reich said.

Rao received a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree at the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta. He had to place in the top 25 on a national exam to gain entry. Once at the institute, Rao soon became fascinated with the application of statistics to questions in genetic epidemiology, the study of the genetics and inheritance of disease and other traits. “I would say it was pure luck that I landed at the institute, and once I was there, it was the gravity of the intellectual atmosphere and the inspiring mentorship of C. R. Rao, the institute’s director, that turned me on to genetic epidemiology,” Rao said.

Rao received a letter from Newton Morton, Ph.D., and was soon on his way to the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. “I didn’t think twice. I just took the offer and arrived in 1971,” Rao said.

In 1971, Rao received a letter from the Hawaiian researcher, who was developing statistical tools to determine the influence of genetic factors on human traits. Rao studied at the school of genetics at the University of Hawaii and spent a wonderful eight years there, it was the gravity of the cold light of reality.”

His efforts also have helped researchers determine what role environmental factors — what people eat, where they live and so on — play in disease. “It took no time for me to become convinced that it’s genes and environmental factors and the way they work together that influence who develops certain diseases,” Rao said.

In the early 1970s, Rao worked with Newton Morton, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry at the University of Hawaii, to develop statistical tools for genetic epidemiology. Rao and Morton worked to develop statistical tools to determine the influence of genetic factors on human traits. They eventually developed statistical tools to test out new models. Rao and Morton worked to develop statistical tools to determine the influence of genetic factors on human traits. They eventually developed statistical tools to test out new models.