Washington University Record, February 14, 2003

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Cancer-killing protein found by researchers

BY JIM DRYDEN

School of Medicine researchers have found that a protein called cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) can destroy several types of cancer cells. When the team inserted the protein into cultured tumor cells, more than 70 percent self-destructed.

The team's study appeared in the Jan. 17 issue of the Journal of Molecular Cell. The researchers found that COX-2 helps regulate production of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), which is better known as a key culprit in arthritis.

"The gene that produces COX-2 is turned on very early in cancer, so there has been a lot of research to see whether interfering with it might be an effective therapy," said principal investigator Shlomit Anant, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine. "At present, COX-2 converts arachidonic acid in the body into prostanoids. In cancer cells, COX-2 levels also rise and trigger production of prostanoids. The prostanoids bind to tumor cells and help turn on genes involved in the growth of new blood vessels, helping fuel the cells' rapid growth.

In this study, Anant and his colleagues looked at events early in the development of tumors. In any cell's life, there is a normal cycle of replication and division. First, a close copy of DNA, called RNA, is made, and that RNA, in turn, is translated into proteins. These proteins have to be made at precisely the right time in order for the cycle to work correctly. It is thought that tight regulation is necessary for a cell to divide correctly.
Black History Month film series starts Feb. 16

by BY ANDY CLYDENNEN

University Libraries is sponsoring a film series for Black History Month. The series will feature a number of films that are part of their newly created Film and Media Archives, established in 2001 after the acquisition of the collections of Blackside Inc., the largest African-American film production company of its day. The screenings, which are free and open to the public, are as follows:

- Feb. 16, 3:30-5 p.m., Brown Hall, Room 100. “Film Subjects and Creators.”


with the 1950s came a new intruder to the home — television. As professors and stu-

diess bring about the Freedom Suits. Like Dred Scott and other members of the

court records of the Missouri secretary of

subjects and Creators.”

The symposium is an annual event held to bring to people the history and culture of African-American achievements in the field of film and video. The symposium will focus on the significance of African-American film and video in the United States and internationally. The symposium will feature films by African-American filmmakers and presentations by scholars, filmmakers, and activists.

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American University (1976). In this deep and entertaining exploration of television, the author introduces viewers to the world of television. It was nominated for an Academy Award, and is now considered one of the best films of all time.

Allan Beller, director of the SEC’s Investor Education Division, said the symposium will focus on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which requires chief executive and chief financial officers to certify the financial statements of their companies and creates the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to oversee auditors.

"Harvey Goldschmid is one of the most prescient insiders on corporate and securities law," said Beller. "He is a former SEC commissioner and the author of the book "The Religions of Man: An Introduction to Comparative Religion.""

"The symposium is an annual program of the Washington University Law Quarterly, which will publish the conference papers," said Beller. "The keynote speakers, associate professor of law, are the symposium's coordinators.

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Featured participants include:

- Alan Beller, director of the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance.
- Steven Goldschmid, co-director of the American Studies Program in Arts & Sciences.
- Jonathan R. Mincer, Ph.D., co-director of the American Studies Program in Arts & Sciences.
- Leslie Brown, associate professor of history at the University of Washington.

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Washington University will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2003-04. Special programs and events will be announced as the yearlong observance progresses.

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**Sleeping safely**

Research ties bed sharing to SIDS

**By Kimberly Leydig**

There is a 90-minute high-energy winter weather, can't-miss epic workouts taught by St. Louis' leading fitness instructors.

BY KIMBERLY LEYDIG

Schoo of Medicine researchers have discovered a possible new mechanism for regulating large groups of genes. When scientists are lacking genetic information, the team identified a mechanism that enables the genome to silence large numbers of genes even more. The research has the potential to revolutionize cancer drug design, as well as provide new insights into stress control.

**Anticancer drug may reveal mechanism of gene regulation**

**By Darrell E. Ward**

In a study published in the journal Molecular Cell, researchers identified 300 genes involved in TOR-related activities, including the functional importance of the brain. The team identified 300 genes that are expressed to help the cell survive stress, and 300 genes that are not expressed in stressed cells. The team also identified 300 genes that are expressed in stressed cells and 300 genes that are not expressed in stressed cells.

**Lobbying for reform**

University physicians joined hundreds of their colleagues in Jan. 29 on "White Coat Day" to encourage the Missouri Legislature to enact medical malpractice reform. Here with Democratic state Sen. Patrick Douglass (from left), and Rep. Lawrence Plunkett, R-Platte City; Bradley, D.O., assistant professor of surgery; Jennifer M., M.D., assistant professor of surgery; and Jennifer A. M., M.D., associate professor of surgery.

**Fitness workshop benefits breast cancer programs**

**By Kimberly Leydig**

There are so many excuses to not exercise — the wrath of winter weather, can't-miss episodes of American Idol, workout clothes that no longer fit. There's a good reason to snap out of a fitness funk: the Celebrate Fitness workshop, which benefits breast cancer research and programs at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

**Schizophrenia study needs volunteers**

The Department of Psychiatry is seeking volunteers with schizophrenia who also have a brother or sister with the disease. Schizophrenia is the result of genetic and environmental influences that alter the structure and function of the brain. To participate in this family study of schizophrenia, you can also pre-register with a $20 donation by visiting celebrate-fitness.org or just pay a $25 fee at the door. The top three angel fund raisers will receive prize bags packed with designer jewelry, baseball tickets, fragrance gift baskets and more. All participants (whether they finish the workshop or not) will receive a gift bag valued at $75. There are also raffle prizes like a theater gift bag valued at $75. All proceeds will benefit the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. For more information, call 888-925-7252.
Brooke Bagnell (left) and Robin Kacyn as sisters Moe and Greta in Marlas Wogryn's darkly comic family drama Psalms of a Questionable Nature, winner of the A.E. Hotchner Writing Competition, which debuts Feb. 20-23 in the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre.

By NAZIMA HUSSAIN

Judith Miller — an author, journalist, and renowned expert on Middle East issues — will deliver the Loeb and Chasnoff Distinguished Lecture on Feb. 19 in Graham Chapel for the Assembly Series.

Her lecture is called "A View From the Middle East." Miller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter for The New York Times, has covered both national politics and foreign affairs, and her writing has focused on the Middle East and the former Soviet Union.

She was extensively written on nuclear warfare and concentrated on the Middle East. In 1987, she returned to the United States to serve as news editor and deputy chief of the Times's Cairo, Egypt, bureau in 1983, responsible for covering news of the Arab world.

In 1991, she was the Times' special correspondent in Paris, then returned to the United States the next year to serve as news editor and deputy chief of the Times's Cairo, Egypt, bureau in 1983, responsible for covering news of the Arab world.

Miller then spent the next year and refining her writing and full-time, her writing and full-time, and the production...
**Rhythm in Shoes, The Red Clay Ramblers at Edison**

**By ELAINE OTTEN**

D ince St. Louis and the Edison Theater's OTAWTON Series will present Rambleshow, a cutting-edge, critically-acclaimed performance of Rhythm in Shoes, those Dayton-born and raised blues, roots, and American dance, and The Red Clay Ramblers, the Tony Award-winning band, the roots music collective.

The performances begin at 8 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22 at 2 p.m. Feb. 23. Rambleshow is a two-year-old venture. Rambleshow tells a tangled tale of wanderlust while also challenging the notion of "home" we carry with us on the road — a theme dear to the heart of America's Warren Zevon. The Ramblers scored Shepard's films For Nothin' (1988) and Silver Tongue (1994) and have been frequent guests on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion. They've also appeared on The Tonight Show, CBS This Morning, Morning Edition, among others, and performed and/or recorded with noted artists, including Newmen, Michele Shocked and George Carlin, a Red Clay Rambler from more than two decades ago.  

Tickets for Rambleshow — $27; $22 for seniors, students and employees of WUSTL — are available at the St. Louis Box Office, 935-6543, or through all MetroTix outlets. Discounts are available for WUSTL students — are available at the Dance St. Louis Box Office, 935-6543.

For more information, call 935-6543.

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**


**Thursday, Feb. 27**


**Saturday, Feb. 29**


**Monday, March 3**


**Tuesday, March 4**


**Wednesday, March 5**

6 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Emory U. (Also Feb. 15, 8 p.m.) Cost: $27, $22 for senior, students, and employees of WUSTL. Edison Theatre, 362-2139.

Music

Friday, Feb. 14


On Stage

Friday, Feb. 7

7 p.m. Play Performance. "Gifts" Presented by the University Theatre and WUSTL. 935-5041.


**Monday, March 3**

Protein

Can destroy several types of cancer cells
— From Page 1

tion of important proteins is critical, including differing with the strict regulation of these pro- teins — even by a few minutes — can lead to serious problems such as cancer.

That the timing is con- trolled by the activity of messenger RNA (mRNA), talent and uniqueness, second Chris Jefferies said. "If you're going to have your ups and downs, but not with these seniors.
"It's a game, after all, and it's our group has been a really close and tight-knit group. It's an overnight success.
"When CUGBP2 is intro-duced, the strategy might be ready for further study. We have never tried to stress take advantage of the free food, provided by the Giving Tree, and we've done all year," said Kate Graham.
"I know that sounds clichéd, but if you don't prepare for a game at one time, not only are you more likely to trip up when you lose sight of the big picture.
"You've gotta have fun," Rudis said. "Both programs put in too much effort and play basketball to get to the top. We don't get paid, and we don't get a national championship would be expected more quickly. We are inviting to the St. Louis community and our fans.
"We've gotta have fun," Rudis said. "Both programs put in too much effort and play basketball to get to the top. We don't get paid, and we don't get a national championship would be expected more quickly. We are inviting to the St. Louis community and our fans.
"The event brings together students from Washington, St. Louis University, the University of Southern Illinois (Edwardsville) universities and students from St. Louis high schools.

Senior guard Diana Hill drives to the hoop against the University of Rochester earlier this year. Hill leads the Bears with 74 assists and is earning the reasons the team is in the midst of its sixth-straight 20-win season.

"It's a game, after all, and it's our

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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Feb. 14, 2003
7

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police Feb. 5-11.

Feb. 5

9:22 a.m. — A student reported that a laptop was stolen from her purse, which was taken from a chair in Law in Wohl Dining Center.

Feb. 6

2:36 p.m. — A student reported that her Powerbook was stolen sometime between 8:30 a.m. and 3:22 p.m. Total loss is estimated at $800.

Feb. 7

8:30 a.m. — A staff member reported that a locked, secured folding chair and five or six folding tables were taken from the Old McMillan Hall.

Feb. 9

9:49 a.m. — A staff member reported that a number of researchers with infor-

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The society gives the Midwest Award to a chemist in the region, defined by the society as South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri, who has made significant contributions to chemical research in the Midwest.

Gross, who became a member of the American Chemical Society in 1980, has published more than 100 research articles in the field of structural biology and molecular biology and has received a number of awards for his research.

He is currently a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is working on the development of new methods for the study of protein structure and function.

Record sales Members of the Hatchet editorial team examine pages for the new issue recently at their offices in Prince Hall. Pictured are (left to right) Amy Power, executive assistant; Angela Chang, production editor; Judy Wang, photography editor; (standing, from left) Kendra Garell, editor in chief; Jamie Fedele, student advisor; and Chris Beresford, director of marketing and sales.

The University has received an additional $5,000,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for research titled "Novel Research Project in Leprosy."

Additional University Police responded to three accidents and three reports of larceny.

Chemist Gross wins Midwest Award

By TONY FITZPATRICK

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Healing hearts

Michael E. Cain has led the translation of arrhythmia laboratory findings into clinical advances

By GILA Z. REICHERS

people and, more importantly, we now have effective treatments such as the implantable cardioverter defibrillator, which truly prevents people from dying prematurely. It's like turning a light switch on and off.

Of course, there are still plenty of unanswered questions in the pursuit of understanding the heart's electrical system, and Cain still puts in the extra effort, both as a clinical scientist and as director of the School of Medicine's Cardiovascular Division.

"Michael is an exemplary leader both in research and in advocating for his division," says William A. Peck, M.D., dean of the medical school and executive vice chancellor for medical affairs. "He adeptly balances the school's triplicate mission of research, clinical and teaching excellence and has helped propel the division's reputation in one of the most respected heart teams in the country."

Right place, right time

The field of clinical cardiac electrophysiology, as young as Cain's medical degree. When he first decided to focus on cardiology and, more specifically, on the heart's electrical system, in the mid-1970s, only a handful of experts in the United States were dedicated to this emerging subspecialty.

So after five years of advanced cardiac and internal-medicine training at the University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Cain returned to his native Philadelphia to gain experience at the University of Pennsylvania.

Equipped with expertise and eagerness to broaden the field, Cain returned to St. Louis in 1981 and joined the faculty at Washington University. Having completed much of his training here, Cain says he was very impressed that the institution was a perfect fit.

"There was a palpable feeling that the institution strives to achieve excellence through collaboration and open approaches," he says "with the mentality that we'll do more if we work together."

The school's emphasis on teamwork and interdisciplinary efforts was particularly critical, in Cain's opinion, for developing a program of excellence in clinical electrophysiology.

He convinced the medical school and Barnes Hospital to train a new team of research, clinical and teaching excellence and to help propel the division's reputation in one of the most respected heart teams in the country.

Before the 1970s, information about a patient's heart rhythm could be gleaned only indirectly from analysis of the electrocardiogram.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, direct recordings of the heart's electrical system during open-heart surgery became possible through the use of computerized mapping systems developed in the 1960s for use in other kinds of surgery.

The data acquired during heart surgery provided new insights into the mechanisms of human arrhythmias and led to the development of curative surgical approaches for several arrhythmias that were becoming the standard of care in the late 1970s. These breakthroughs then led to the modern era of catheter-based approaches for curing most cardiac arrhythmias. Beginning in the 1970s, clinical cardiac electrophysiologists began adapting these tubes, called catheters, to thread a wire with electrodes into a patient's blood vessel, advance the catheter to the heart and record patient's heartbeat without making a single invasive chest incision.

Information from catheter recordings in both humans and experimental animals led to more accurate diagnoses and to the development of precision catheter-based procedures that destroy the electrical short-circuit responsible for a given arrhythmia.

Now, clinical cardiac electrophysiologists are able to cure most cardiac arrhythmias using this catheter-based approach. "We have done some pioneering work as a group, more of which would have been possible had we not had a diverse team of experts to work together," said "Collectively, we were able to help define the mechanisms of several human arrhythmias and develop curative, smart, minimally invasive approaches based on that information."

"It's very rewarding to have made that important contribution, and it's especially satisfying to watch the next generation of cardiac electrophysiology trainees take the field to the next level."

Balancing act

Inspired by academic and clinical mentors during his training, Cain discovered the importance of coupling basic science with clinical work. Little did he know that he would later need to balance far more than that.

In addition to wrangling his family together every year for a week of boating on the East Coast and a week of skiing out West, Cain maintains a tremendously busy calendar.

In the clinic and laboratory, he continues to focus on developing and using new recording technologies to determine which patients are at risk for sudden cardiac arrest and to treat electrical abnormalities. But these days, his time is largely occupied on the campuses of the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology, and on the boards of the American Thoracic Society and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

"I enjoy the challenge of providing an environment that enables our faculty to excel in our clinical, teaching and research operations," Cain says. "I try to lead by example, maintain an open administration and ensure that people feel they have ownership of the division and are recognized for their contributions.

"We have a group of very talented, bright individuals, and to not take advantage of that resource would be a wasted opportunity," Cain says. "Consistently, they perform beyond expectations, and our program is one of the most respected in the world."

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