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Research grant extended by NIH into 44th year

By Michael C. Purzy

The longest continuously renewed NIH research grant at Washington University has been renewed for five years and more than $11 million. With the renewal, "Cyclotron Produced Isotopes in Biology and Medicine" will be extended into its 44th year of supporting research into imaging techniques and agents at the medical school. The historic grant supported the work of Ter-Pogossian that allowed Michel Ter-Pogossian, Ph.D., professor of radiology, to lead the development of the first positron emission tomography (PET) scanner at the School of Medicine in the 1970s. Ter-Pogossian was the principal investigator on the grant until 1984, when he was succeeded by Michael Welch, Ph.D., professor of radiology of molecular biology and pharmacology and of chemistry. For many years, the grant had been dedicated to imaging studies of the heart, lungs and brain. Its current renewal focuses on imaging the heart. The renewed grant supports three research programs: development of new imaging agents to study cardiac disease; use of PET imaging to study heart damage in animal models of diabetes and application of the imaging agents in a clinical setting with diabetic patients.

The common theme in all three programs is developing a better understanding of how diabetes is linked to heart disease, according to Welch. "Cardiovascular disease is the most frequent cause of death in both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and diabetics have a much higher incidence of hardening and narrowing of the arteries and of dysfunction in the pumping chambers of the heart," Welch said. Evidence has shown that diabetics have abnormal accumulation of fatty substances known as lipids in the myocardium, or the heart muscle. Scientists think this buildup promotes the creation of chemically reactive nitrogen and oxygen compounds that damage heart tissue. The program to develop new imaging agents, headed by Robert Shuster, is in its final year.

Olin Library has new look; construction winding down

By Andy Clendenn

Students and faculty returning to the Hilltop Campus after the winter break might have been a little confused when they tried to enter Olin Library. That's because the entrance moved on Dec. 29 from the south, permanent location on the south, Black areas on all levels are complete, including Level 3, which reopened over the break, as did Level 4.

The only areas not yet finished are the Crossroads Cafe, the grand staircase and a reading room on the east side of the building (just inside where the east entrance used to be).

Here come the champs

The national champion Washington University women's volleyball team was honored at halftime of the Feb. 6 men's basketball game at the Field House. Above, a curtain drop to reveal the national championship banner. At top right, senior Katie Quinn addresses the audience. Below left and Chancelor Mark S. Wrighton look on. Wrighton is holding the national championship trophy, which he later presented to the team. At right, each member of the team was introduced and received a red rose.

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The Village, now in its third year at the University, is thriving. Formally known as Small Group Housing, the Village offers students the unique perspective of living in interest groups of 4-12 members who share a common passion and are driven to incorporate that into their everyday lives. The original idea for the Village was to foster a seamless living and learning environment for students so that they could live, learn, and thrive with these new faculty,” Losos, Arts & Sciences and director of Environmental Studies, the renovation and learning environment for undergraduate majors are as attractive and functional addition the new facilities at the northwest end of campus faculty. “I think the Village is the very attractive and functional addition to the Washington University campus,” said James W. Davis, Ph.D., professor of political science in Arts & Sciences and faculty associate at the Village. “Combining in one residential development living units, quarters, flexible dining areas, a number of classrooms and lots of activity spaces — including a small theater, computer labs and practice spaces — the Village clearly enriches the housing options available to undergraduates.”

Environmental Studies Curriculum revised

The Program in Environmental Studies in Arts & Sciences has extensively revised its curriculum, marking the first major overhaul since the major was created more than 10 years ago. According to Jonathan Losos, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences and director of Environmental Studies, the revision was undertaken in response to changes in the environmental issues and a recent increase — by more than 33 percent — in program faculty.

“We’ve added considerable new expertise to the program with these new faculty members, the department’s Losos said. “The two goals of this revision are to enhance the education students receive about the environment and issues confronting it, and to provide maximal flexibility so that the options available to undergraduate majors are as diverse as the ways in which the environment can be studied.”

The first key change is the establishment of a set of required introductory courses that students from both the social sciences and natural-science tracks must take. Now students will take four introductory courses, two from the social sciences and two from the natural sciences, making the major more cohesive, Losos said. Two of the introductory courses are new: “Earth and the Environment” replaces “Evolution of the Earth” and is specifically tailored to undergraduate majors interested in environmental science. and a more general track that combines the two areas. Students now also have the option of developing their own tracks. Examples of such tracks might include: global climate change, energy policy and the environment, animal behavior, ecology, and zooschology.

Environmental Studies is one of the newest academic areas on the St. Louis campus, and the first schoolwide initiative has allowed K-12 students to participate in space and space-related projects.

The Aria-9, Project Aria's eleventh flight, carried 118 experiments on the TIGER high-altitude balloon payload that flew over Antarctica from Dec. 16-Jan. 5, Bennett said. “It's gratifying to see the types of experiments have varied with each different flight,” Bennett said. “It's gratifying to see so many students get an early exposure to hands-on science.”

All Aria-9 experiments were student-selected "fly-and-compare" experiments. Each experiment consisted of three small instruments mounted in small, 50-pound polycarbonate vessels. One sample was kept at home to serve as a control sample. The second sample was placed on the payload outside the McMurdo base. The final sample was placed in the Aria-flight experiment package and flown with the TIGER instrument. Students will compare the flight and Antarctic ground samples to determine how much cosmic rays affect the earth. Students, under the guidance of their teachers, adopted a wide range of materials to fly. These included everyday materials such as ink, film and rubber, to complex chemical materials such as ferromagnetic, paramagnetic, and antiferromagnetic. Aria, a steel-framed, open-air pavilion and seasonal center. Students are also developing several experiments. This experiment is a replacement for one lost in the 1997-98 school year.

Aria-9 has a successful trip

Aria, the University's 9-foot high-altitude balloon, has been designed to measure cosmic rays (CRs), galactic cosmic rays (GCRs), and solar/ultraviolet effects on Earth. This experiment is a collaboration between the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

The TIGER (Trans-Iron Galactic and Extragalactic-Ray) GCR experiment was designed to measure cosmic rays outside the Earth's atmosphere.

The radiation, which is produced by the Sun, is thought to be the primary source of cosmic rays. The Sun's radiation is thought to be the primary source of cosmic rays.

The Aria-9 experiment was designed to measure cosmic rays outside the Earth's atmosphere.
Arthritis drug may cause adverse side effects

**By Michael C. Arnold**

Researchers at the School of Medicine and the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in St. Louis are conducting a study of VA patients to investigate the effects of arthritis drug leflunomide on quality of life in women with rheumatoid arthritis.

Leflunomide is the most crippling forms of arthritis, affecting 2.5 million Americans with joint pain and inflammation. It is a chronic condition linked to immune system dysfunction. Leflunomide is one of a dozen drugs for rheumatoid arthritis that typically do not enroll in clinical care. Eisen explained that clinical trials often enroll more women patients from higher socioeconomic groups. The sex bias is particularly prevalent in clinical trials for treatments for rheumatological diseases, which affect women more often than men.

"VA medical data complement observations from other sources because VA patients are minimally treated and older and include a higher proportion of African-Americans and individuals from lower socioeconomic groups than general studies do," said Eisen.

Eisen suggested that researchers should correspond with those conducting studies on this other drugs already approved for arthritis research.

"Post-approval follow-up is very important because it may demonstrate problems, sometimes decades later," that wasn't appreciated in the design of the example of premarin, a treatment for post-menopausal symptoms. Risks linked to the drug were identified several decades after it was approved for clinical use.

"Because post-approval studies tend to require large numbers of people in order to evaluate the low-frequency adverse outcomes, they are typically very, very expensive to do," Eisen said. "Studying a large database like the VA's is relatively inexpensive, and it is very feasible to collect and analyze important information.

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**Quality of life in early breast cancer studied**

**By Jim Dryden**

Seam Cancer Center researchers have received a five-year, $1.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute and the Breast Cancer Stamp Fund to study the quality of life in women who are diagnosed with very early breast cancer, which is now diagnosed more frequently as a screening mammogram is used.

This form of breast cancer, called ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), is what physicians refer to as Stage 0 breast cancer. In DCIS, the cancer is confined to the breast's milk ducts, and differs between women with breast cancer or with negative mammograms.

"We believe that the new findings are important because those things aren't always measured in a randomized, controlled trial," Eisen said.

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**Pediatricians form research network**

**By Diane Duke Williams**

When children visit their pediatricians with everyday problems such as acute diarrhea and ear infections, the treatments can vary greatly from doctor to doctor and from office to office. To identify the most effective treatments for some of these problems, a group of local pediatricians has joined forces with School of Medicine pediatricians to form a practice-based pediatric research network.

"We want to identify effective and effective treatments that are best beneficial to patients when they see their pediatricians and nurse practitioners," said Jane Garbutt, M.B., Ch.B., program director of the Washington University Pediatric and Adolescent Ambulatory Research Consortium. "We want to measure the effects of treatments on symptom resolution, recurrence rates and improve patient satisfaction because those things aren't always measured in a randomized, controlled trial," Garbutt, who also is a research assistant professor of medicine, said the consortium is a grassroots organization whose efforts may demonstrate problems, sometimes decades later, that weren't appreciated in the design of the example of premarin, a treatment for post-menopausal symptoms.

Funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, St. Louis Children's Hospital Foundation and the school's medical staff has enabled the consortium to recruit members, conduct two studies, establish a liaison and serve as the membership liaison director.

The network would like to study treatment for painkillers, the use of medication for asthma and treatment of obesity in the nation's children and secure funding for each study.

Garbutt is confident that the network will continue to enhance the care provided to children in their own practice and is currently developing methods for high-quality care.
In 2003, they received the Guggenheim Fellowship and were commissioned to create a new work for the Guggenheim Museum in New York. They have also been featured in numerous exhibitions and performances around the world, including the Venice Biennale and the Biennale de Paris. Their work continues to push the boundaries of dance and create new possibilities for the form.

The program will begin with "New York," a piece created for the New York Philharmonic in 2013. This work features a combination of classical ballet and contemporary dance, highlighting the unique style of the Ballet Boyz. The piece will be accompanied by a live orchestra and will feature a cast of dancers from around the world.

The final piece of the program will be "The Final Cut," a work created in 2015. This piece explores themes of identity, memory, and the human experience, using a combination of dance, music, and visual imagery. The work has been widely praised for its emotional impact and technical virtuosity.

Overall, the program promises to be a remarkable showcase of the skills and creativity of the Ballet Boyz, and is not to be missed by fans of contemporary dance. For more information, please visit the Ballet Boyz website or check out their social media channels.
Edwards to deliver Williams Lecture Feb. 18

By Jessica Martin

Harry T. Edwards, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, will deliver the School of Law's 2004 Tyrell Williams Lecture, "A Conversation With Judges Edwards," which will begin at 4 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Bryan Cave Mezzanine Courtroom in Anheuser-Busch Hall.

Edwards is expected to discuss judicial collegiality.

His talk will be co-presented by the Writing Program and the Department of English.

For more information, call 935-4069.

Music

Thursday, Feb. 19

1 p.m. Student Nurses' Chorus vs. Nurses. Mallinckrodt Student Center, Great Hall. 935-4444.

7:30 p.m. Lyrical Charge. Mallinckrodt Student Center, Great Hall. 935-4444.

Sunday, Feb. 22


On Stage

Saturday, Feb. 14

3 p.m. Atrium Lunch. Washington University Symphony Orchestra, Ben Prosnitz, guest conductor. 935-4444.

Sunday, Feb. 22

5:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Food for Thought: Taste of China. Mallinckrodt Student Center Lounge, Duncker Hall, Mallinckrodt Student Center. 935-4444.

On the Web

Pet and essayist J.D. McClatchy will read his work at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 in The Yale Review Program Reading Series. The talk — sponsored by the Writing Program and the Department of English, both in Arts & Sciences — will take place in Huron Lecture Hall Room 201. Information and an author photo can be found at the Yale Review website. For more information, call 935-4444.

Poet McClatchy to talk Feb. 19

Saturday, Feb. 14


Monday, Feb. 23

5:15 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Center for the Application of Science and Technology: "Science and Technology Tidbits."

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Task force to be chaired by Ann B. Prenatt

To provide the most competitive wages and benefits to their employees in a workplace that is respectful and conducive to productivity, the University of St. Louis has initiated a task force, which will provide its recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

"Our goal should be nothing less than a place where all who work here do so with pride and with confidence that they will be well and fairly rewarded," Wrighton said.

Village

From Page 2

The village, said Richard Hilleseman, president of the Village at Washington University Assembly, "is just a great balance of everything we have to offer, and I honestly think it has met expectations there and other identical options here on campus."

Justin X. Carroll, assistant vice chancellor for students and dean of students, thinks the Village offers a winning living alternative.

"Participation in one of the small groups affords students an opportunity to work together closely with classmates, learn about current events and international politics, provide service to the community and participate in the performing arts," Carroll said.

In the performing arts, Village offers a very exciting living alternative. For more information, including the student-group application process, go online to village.wustl.edu.

The book may also be ordered at the Campus Store, Web site: www.shop.wustl.edu.

In 1870, Eliot became acting chancellor in 1872. He held both positions until his death in 1887.

Earth and Planetary Sciences Building

The masonry work continues on the south side of the structure. The masonry work is complete. Partition framing continues on all levels, and drywall and painting are progressing well.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing contractors continue to work from the lower level up to the attic-level floor, from south to north. Work will continue to focus on completing the finishes and flooring in the building.

Terraform flooring work has started. Placement of the tiles will be in progress during the next month.

MetroLink expansion

Work will begin on installing two temporary bridges — at Skinker and Forest Park. Delayed work will connect the area. A kiosk will be installed to direct riders.

Information kiosks are available in the St. Louis area and will be rotating to various sites showing where MetroLink will connect the area. A kiosk will be in Mallinckrodt Student Center until Feb. 22.

University Police also responded to four auto accidents and one report of each tampering, larceny, disturbance, harassment, property damage and assault.

WUSTL Bears or polar bears?

Members of University Police broke up a confrontation in the 20s and participated in a "Polar Bear Plunge" Feb. 7 as part of a statewide fund-raiser for the Special Olympics. Jumping in Lake Saint Louis with 132 other Region 1 (St. Louis area) law-enforcement members were (from left) dispatcher Nancy Harding, Detective Dan Moore, Det. Robert Schmidt. statewide law-enforcement agencies adopted the Special Olympics years ago, and this year the goal is to raise $1 million. The 150 people who jumped Feb. 7 raised about $37,000.

Library

Materials being moved to permanent locations

On Feb. 6, the slogan "an assistant professor, he was paid $44,950. It will be available at the Campus Store on the Hilltop Campus and

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Of note

Peter Ravca, Ph.D., the Enge-
imant Professor of Botany and direc-
tional Garden, will receive the Royal Horticultural Society's Veitch Memorial Medal for 2004 in July. The award is given to
those who have made an out-
standing contribution to the advancement of horticulture, the garden said. Ravca is among the six award-winners this year. Ravca was chosen for his contributions to botany and plant conservation and for his work with the Royal Horticultural Society's Horti-
cultural organization and a gar-
den-denying charity in the United Kingdom.

Rabbi Pappu, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical engi-
neering, has received a two-year, $153,000 grant from the March of Dimes Foundation and 10-
months, $40,000 grant from the Washington University Alzhei-
er's Disease Research Center to study the molecular basis of polymyositis disorders.

Kendall Hauser, Ph.D., profes-
sor of soil science and crop engineer-
ing, has received a one-
year, $100,000 grant from North-
east for Coordinated Agricul-
ture Use Management for research titled "Crop Assessing Tools for Natural Event Tracking."

Buck Rogers, Ph.D., associate pro-
FESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, has received a two-
year, $37,000 grant from the United States Medical Research Council, has received a one-
year, $3,000 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for research titled "Genetics of Polyomavirus Metabolism in H. Pylori."

Renée Cunningham-Williams, Ph.D., research assistant professor of social work in psychiatry, has received a two-
year, $50,000 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for research titled "Validation and Implementation Issues in Psychologic Gambling."

William F. Stenson, M.D., profes-
sor of psychiatry, has received a one-
year, $3,199 grant from the Friends of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, has received a one-
year, $450,000 grant from the Alzheimer's Association for research titled "Exploring Psychosocial Determinants of Intention to Screen for Memory Loss and an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to study the molecular basis of polymyositis disorders."

James Galvin, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry, has received a three-year, $240,000 grant from the Alzheimer's Association for research titled "Exploring Psychosocial Determinants of Intention to Screen for Memory Loss and an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to study the molecular basis of polymyositis disorders."
Marc R. Hammerman, M.D. (right), and Peng Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, examine sequencing data for a rat into which an embryonic pig pancreas was transplanted. “This is one of the great medical centers in the world,” Hammerman says, “and being on faculty here has permitted me to do pretty much what I have wanted to do.”

Marc Hammerman’s novel approach to curing kidney failure may reduce the chance of transplant rejection

Hammerman and his wife, Nancy, celebrate Marc’s first scientific presentation at a major national meeting in Atlantic City, N.J., in 1975.

Thrill of the chase

Marc Hammerman’s novel approach to curing kidney failure may reduce the chance of transplant rejection

by increasing services available to patients, expanding opportuni-
ties for teaching and training, making available to medical students, and refining business aspects of the enterprise, which now include a pan-
diary divisions and centers and hundreds of employees.

In the laboratory, Hammerman has developed the Chromalloy Professor of Renal Diseases in Medicine and professor of cell biology and physi-

olog—focus on an inherently creative process: growth. He stud-
ies how the kidney and the pan-
creas grow during the early stages of development.

Hammerman used what he has learned about kidney and pancre-
sus growth to devise a novel approach to curing kidney failure and diabetes with organ trans-
plants. The new approach involves xenotransplantation, or trans-
planting an organ from one species to another.

In adult human transplants, the immune system’s rejection of the transplanted organs has always been a primary obstacle.

Hammerman’s innovative approach to this problem involves using embryonic precursors to animal organs instead of the organs themselves. The transplanted tissues aren’t stem cells, he empha-
sizes, because they’re not cells that can grow into anything—they’re locked into developing into a pan-
creas or a kidney.

Hammerman hopes that allowing organ precursors to grow into organs inside a patient might greatly reduce chances that the immune system would reject the transplant.

His research has been very successful in early animal tests. A recent experiment used trans-
planted pig embryonic pancreas to cure diabetes in two rats without also employing any immunosuppressive drugs.

“There are other people who are doing similar types of studies in the field,” he says, “they’re doing it more to study specific biological processes than to get a fully functional organ,”

say the Renal Division’s Jeffrey H. Miner, Ph.D., associate profes-
sor of medicine and assistant professor of cell biology and physiology. “Marc is the only per-
fact he is doing it now. It is really to replace the diseased organ, or a kidney.”

Chasing challenges

Hammerman was born at St. Louis Maternity Hospital in 1947, grew up in University City and earned undergraduate (1969) and medical (1972) degrees from Washington University. After a time, he moved to a new research field in which he could pursue creative solutions to clinical problems.

“Absolutely, that’s it.”

Hammerman explains.

Hammerman made Nancy’s engagement ring, which features a green-faceted sapphire. His favorite piece is a necklace with a blue-faceted sapphire.

He has given many of his projects to Nancy and to his daughter Megan, a social worker in San Francisco. And he’s even made a few for his son Seth, a medical student at the University of Vermont.

“There’s sort of a moment of truth while you’re soldering these silver pieces together—you have about three seconds or less be-
tween the time the solder melts and the silver melts,” he says.

“That’s the art—they both have to be at the right temperature at the same time, and that’s where the skill comes in.

“And you know, the worst thing that can happen is that you melt a little silver and you waste a lot of time, right?” he adds with a quick laugh.

For Hammerman, though, one gets the sense that the pursuit of creative solutions is probably never a genuine waste of time.

Marc R. Hammerman, M.D., Ph.D.

Hammerman was born in St. Louis in 1947 and graduated from Washington University in 1972, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and a master’s degree in zoology. He then attended medical school at the University of California, San Francisco, where he received his M.D. in 1977.

Hammerman joined the faculty of the University of California, San Francisco, in 1977, where he remained until 1981. He then moved to the University of Tennessee, where he served as associate professor of medicine and associate professor of cell biology and physiology.

Hammerman was appointed chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Tennessee in 1985 and served as chair until 1990. He then moved to the University of Washington, where he served as associate dean for medical education until 1995.

Hammerman’s research interests include the regulation of renal function, the role of the kidney in the development of hypertension and diabetes, and the use of xenotransplantation to treat kidney disease.

In addition to his research, Hammerman is actively involved in medical education, and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to medical education.

Hammerman is a member of the American Society of Nephrology, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the American Association of Physicians.

Hammerman married Nancy Hammerman in 1975, and they have two children: Megan, 26; son, Seth, 28.

Hobbies: Making jewelry and writing short stories.

Marc R. Hammerman, M.D., Ph.D. Washington University in St. Louis

Feb. 13, 2004

Thrill of the chase

Marc R. Hammerman, M.D., (right) and Mrs. E. J. Peng, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, examine sequencing data for a rat into which an embryonic pig pancreas was transplanted. “This is one of the greatest medical centers in the world,” Hammerman says, “and being on faculty here has permitted me to do pretty much what I have wanted to do.”

Hammerman and his wife, Nancy, celebrate Marc’s first scientific presentation at a major national meeting in Atlantic City, N.J., in 1975.