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Faculty, friends to receive Founders Day awards

BY BARBARA REA

T homas M. De Fer, Nicholas Depucha, Mariost P. Duda-kovic and Beata Grant will receive Distinguished Faculty Awards at this year’s Founders Day commemoration Oct. 2 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. The faculty awards are be- stowed by the Alumni Board of Governors, who sponsors the event celebrating the University’s founding.

In addition, Lucy Lopata and Eric and Evelyn Newman will receive the Robert S. Brookings Foundation (NSF).

‘New biology’ Grant enables an integrative methodology

BY TONY FETTENREICH

A team of biologists and engi- neers led by WUSTL faculty is seeking to find the Fountain of Youth — not in Florida, but in Missouri. These are products of oxida- tion of carbohydrates, and then in a model plant and a moss species, these researchers want to deter- mine how these organisms pro- cess themselves from radicals — chemical culprits in the body — in a process in everything from bacte- ria to human beings.

Himadri B. Pakrasi, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Science, is the principal investigator of a five-year, $5 million project from the Frontiers in Integrative Biological Research (FIBR) pro- gram at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

In this project, the team of interdiscipli- nary resear- chers plans to use a systems- biology approach to delin- eate the genes and proteins in photosynthetic organisms, such as cyanobac- teria and plants, and model the system that these organisms use to cope with rad- icals. These are products of oxida- tion and reduction (redox) pro- cesses, and are key culprits in causing cellular aging.

Cyanobacteria are organisms that gave rise to chloroplasts, the oxygen factory in plant cells. A half-billion years ago, cyanobac- teria predated more complex or- ganisms like multicellular plants and functioned in a world where the oxygen level of the biosphere was much less than it is today.

Cyanobacteria have developed a system to survive a gradually in- ceasing oxidizing environment.

See Biology, Page 6

Accreditation team to visit Sept. 27-29

BY ANDY CLENDENEN

W ashington University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit Sept. 27-29 by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Accreditation. The commission has ac- credited the University since 1913; the most recent accredi- tation took place in 1994.

The Higher Learning Com- mission is one of six accredi- tating agencies in the United States that provides institu- tional accreditation on a regional basis.

The commission accredits approximately 1,000 institu- tions of higher education in a 19-state region.

The commission's team consists of experts from comparable institutions, who will review the University's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation and general institutional requirements. During their visit, team members will speak with stu- dents, faculty, administrators, alumni and members of the Board of Trustees from across the University.

Upon conclusion of the visit, the team will prepare a report for the NCA.

Exercise helps reduce heart mass

BY GILA Z. RECKINS

Exercise may reduce more than your waist size — it may also help shrink a thickened and en- larged heart.

University researchers have found that a moderate exercise reg- imen is just as effective as a com- mon blood-pressure drug in reduc- ing the heart’s mass and the thick- ness of the heart wall in elderly individuals with mild to moderate- ly elevated blood pressure.

Both heart mass and wall thick- ness are potentially dangerous risk factors for heart disease and heart failure.

Exercise also provided benefits the heart drug did not, such as lower- ing an individual’s risk of devel- oping diabetes. However, drugs still appear to be the best way to signifi- cantly lower blood pressure.

“Our study confirmed that med- ications are more effective than exercise in lowering blood pres- sure,” said principal investigator Ali A. Ehsani, M.D., professor of medi- cine. “But our main objective was to determine the effect of exercise on other important health factors such as heart size.”

The study was published in the August issue of the American Jour- nal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology.

Ehsani’s team randomly as- signed elderly men and women to either a medication or exercise group. Those in the medication group received one of the common blood-pressure drug tri- dazocarbimide once a day for six months.

Those in the exercise group underwent a two-phase training program. For one month, they par- ticipated in 40-minute flexibility classes three times per week.

For the following five months, they did endurance exercises that incorporated brisk walking, jogging and/or cycling for 40-60 minutes three times a week.

Initially, exercise intensity was about 60 percent to 70 percent of participants’ maximum heart rate, but intensity increased gradually to about 85 percent.

In both the exercise and heart exercise, Page 7

Debate preparations pick up steam

BY ANDY CLENDENEN

F itness junkies who use the Athletic Complex to unwind after a hard day’s work (or study) will have to divert from their normal routine beginning next week of October.

As part of the University’s preparations for the Oct. 7 presidential debate, the Athletic Complex will close at 10 p.m. Sept. 30.

Even if one could get into the complex, there wouldn’t be a whole lot to do — all the exercise machines and other equipment will be moved out to make room for the amenities required to host a debate.

The tentative partial re-opening of the Athletic Complex is Oct. 11; the entire complex will hopefully be operational by Oct. 13.

“The key word here is tentative,” said T.J. Shetton, assistant athletic director for facilities and special events. “The timing of the debate move-out will de- termine how quickly we get the exercise equipment back into the facility.

Alternative workout sites are being investigated with the Athletic Complex. For updates, go to beansports.wustl.edu or call the Athletic Complex hotline, 933-4705.

A solution to the exercise situation might be to

See Debate, Page 7

See Heart, Page 7
talented and diverse' Class of 2008 boasts impressive accomplishments

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

The Metling Pot might be one of the better restaurants in the University City Loop, but one could also call the University campus a melting pot. Especially after looking at the upcoming freshman class.

The approximately 1,450 first-year students hail from all over the world and represent approximately 18 countries, 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Their first day of classes was Sept. 4.

In many the select group were academic leaders, officers in student government and participants in extracurricular activities and athletics in high school. Collectively, the incoming class has received more than 2,200 special and broad recognition awards.

In addition:

• Nearly 925 students are National Honor Society members.
• Nearly 200 wear ROTC uniform, and nearly 500 were officers in their schools' honor organizations.
• Many served as editors—108 of yearbooks and 140 of newspapers.
• Musically, 357 were members of their school bands or orchestras, and 239 were members of a choir or chorus.

In athletics, 414 were team captains.

With a goal to have such a talented and diverse freshman class, WUSTL's director of undergraduate admissions.

We encourage everyone to extend a warm welcome to them.

In addition to accumulating an extra 935 students for their high school years, the freshmen were chosen from about 20,000 applicants.

"We are excited that so many students chose to come home to Washi- ngton University," Tarbouni said. "That is quite a compliment to the University community."
Model clinician

White named director of pediatric rheumatology & immunology

BY KIM LEYDIG

juvenile rheumatoid arthritis expert Andrew J. White, M.D., has been named the Division Director of Pediatric Rheumatology and Immunology.

"Ande White is one of our most talented clinicians and teachers," says Alan L. Schwartz, Ph.D., M.D., head of the Department of Pediatrics and the Arthur H. Bloor Professor of Pediatrics. "He has a passion for clinical medicine and conveys it to those around him, most notably to local students, residents and fellows. He serves as a role model, clinician and educator."

White succeeds Jonathan D. Gillen, M.D., the Helena B. Roberson Professor of Pediatrics, who will continue as the interim director of pediatric genetics.

White is known for his role in the study of new drugs for the treatment of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases.

As division director, White aims to increase the University's national and worldwide participation in clinical trials of novel pharmacotherapeutics (new drugs) for the treatment of rheumatoid and other autoimmune diseases.

White says these new medicines allow us to treat—and possibly even cure—many pediatric autoimmune and rheumatic diseases.

"A 3-year-old girl, who couldn't walk or move her knees, recently came to White after several doctors mislabeled her condition as cerebral palsy. When White examined the little girl, he determined what causes juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. I want to find a way to understand it, treat it and fix it."

During his pediatric residency at St. Louis Children's Hospital, White treated a few patients with a rare, puzzling skin disease called scleroderma en coup de sabre. The condition gets its name — the stroke of the saber — from an indented stripe that forms down the face, effecting the skin, muscle, bone and sometimes brain.

"What fascinates me is that we can't understand why the disease looks exactly the same from person to person," says White, who adds that the mysterious condition—which mostly affects teenage girls—is what drew him to the field. "We have no clue what causes it and no medicines appear to treat it."

An excellent educator

As division director, White says he aims to make the pediatric rheumatology fellowship training program the top in the nation. While advancing the fellowship program, he also continues overseeing the general pediatrics residency program, in which he mentors more than 70 residents every year.

"When he's not teaching students or conducting research, White breeds and raises freshwater fish, from cichlids to cardinals. He has more than 500 fish in 12 tanks at home. He writes stories about fish and also sells fish on Web sites such as Aquaponic, com — some for more than $100. "My wife says I have a fish problem," White jokes. He met his wife, Hilary Babcock, M.D., an instructor of medicine and an infectious disease physician, on the first day of medical school at the University of Texas, Southwestern. The couple moved to Webster Groves and has 6-year-old twin sons, Jack and Charlie. White came to St. Louis Children's Hospital for a general pediatric residency in 1991 and also completed a fellowship in pediatric rheumatology and immunology in 1997. He joined the University as an instructor of pediatrics in 2000 and became an assistant professor of pediatrics in 2001. He is also the director of rheumatology services at St. Louis's Children's Hospital.

"What I love most about this field is that most of the time we can help patients get better," he says.

"It's rare when patients don't respond to drugs and need to be in a wheelchair or can't walk or play sports. We treat, and also cure, many patients—and that's extremely rewarding."

HIV drug may reduce bone loss

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

Cinicians who treat AIDS patients are able to use a single “staple” regimen to treat bone loss, University researchers recently reported in The Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Scientists confirmed the effect of HIV protease inhibitor ritonavir to reduce bone loss, University scientists recently reported in The Journal of Clinical Investigation. New researchers studied the effects of three HAART drugs on osteoclasts — cells that destroy bones, and osteoblasts — cells that build bone. In healthy people, the skeleton is regularly returned about once every decade mainly via the work of these two cell types.

In test-tube experiments, researchers found that one drug, indinavir, inhibited the activity of osteoclasts. And, another drug, ritonavir, blocked the formation of bone-damaging osteoclasts.

Scientists also found evidence that ritonavir can suppress the activity of osteoclasts created prior to the introduction of the drug. A third drug had no effect on either cell type.

"Conferring these effects in humans may mean we have a drug that is effective not only in preventing HIV replication but also in arresting the development of osteoporosis," said senior investigator F. Patrick Ross, Ph.D., research professor of pathology and immunology.

Clinicians first noted problematic weakening of bone in young male HIV patients several years ago. HIV's effects on the body are thought to contribute to the problem, but scientists suspect some of the drugs in the HAART cocktail may be exacerbating bone loss.

In the new study, Ross's post-doctoral fellow Hsin-Chao Wang, M.D., and his colleagues reveal evidence that ritonavir may significantly affect the osteoclast activity. Mice who received only the hormone had higher numbers of osteoclasts, whereas those given both the hormone and ritonavir had unchanged osteoclast levels.

"What I love most about this field is that most of the time we can help patients get better," he says.

"It's rare when patients don't respond to drugs and need to be in a wheelchair or can't walk or play sports. We treat, and also cure, many patients—and that's extremely rewarding."

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Rolling over cancer

University students, staff and faculty and community members simultaneously roll tires around Francis Field. More than 140 people helped raise cancer awareness for the American Cancer Society. The effort included rolling tires, yoga and a zumba class.

"Stinger" may offer easier drug target

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

The bacteria responsible for strep throat, scarlet fever and other disorders appears to use a single "staple" weapon against infection, according to University microbiologists.

Researchers studying the surface of Streptococcus pyogenes, also known as Strep A, had expected to find a disordered jumble of several pumps for spraying compounds onto cells targeted for infection. Instead, they found a single dedicated stager — a feature Step A may share with other bacteria that could provide an easier target for new drugs designed to treat infections.

"It's certainly a long road down the road, but this gives us new ways to think about how other bacteria might one day be stopped," said Michael C. Caparon, Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology and the study's lead investigator.

Strep A is one of the most common human pathogens. Epidemiologists estimate that at any given time 5 percent to 15 percent of humans carry asymptomatic Strep A. Drug resistance in strep has been growing for more than a decade. On the basis of Strep A's outer membrane, microbiologists classify it as a Gram-positive bacteria. Such bacteria only have one outer membrane, but Gram-negative bacteria have two outer membranes separated by a small space. That space between the inner and outer membranes serves as a prep room for proteins and other agents that Gram-negative bacteria secrete to infect host cells.

Many proteins won't function properly unless they have folded into a particular configuration, and scientists believe the space between the two membranes provides Gram-negative bacteria with a place to ensure the right folding and other preparatory steps take place.

Caparon was curious about how Gram-positive bacteria like Strep A prevent their infectious agents without this airlock-like space between membranes. But, A is known to secrete more than 30 different substances as a part of its infectious process," he said. "We wanted to know how does Strep A emits these agents?"

Most microbiological evidence suggested bacteria had evolved some kind of little structural organization beyond the space of their cells. But a few studies, including some from Caparon's lab, recently showed that bacteria might be more organized than scientists suspected.

Caparon and graduate student Jason Rosch used modified antibodies to tag an infectious agent secreted by Strep A. They then took micrographs of the bacteria. The scientists consistently showed up at a single focal point where the cell was secreting the infectious agent.

After follow-up tests confirmed what they observed, Caparon decided to name the new structure that secretes infectious agents "exportal," a combination of export and portal.

"We'd like to now look at how the cell actually puts this together," Caparon said. "If we can identify the factors that are actually involved in putting the exportal together, then may be the most interesting points of intervention for devising new drug treatments."

Caparon also wants to test other Gram-positive bacteria to learn if they have expected
Robert McCann, lecturer in painting in the School of Art, installs his oil-on-panel exhibition (2003) in the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, will showcase nearly 40 drawings, paintings, sculptures, and prints from the mammoth oil on panel, "Birth of Venus" (1801). Additional paintings are by Daumier, Gavarni, Grandville, and Durand-Ruel. The festival will feature a wide range of arts activities as well as music and performances. Food and beverages will be available.

They Never Seem to Hear Me • The 2004 Election

Promotions from the Fall 2003 Issue

How to submit "University Events"
Submit "University Events" items to Secretary of the Press (1) e-mail — recordkeeper@wustl.edu (2) campus mail — Campus Box 1070 or (3) fax (314) 935-3891. Upon request, forms for submitting events may be mailed, faxed, mailed or delivered to Department of Work, Families, & Public Policy, the Center in the Arts, or to the University Events office. Events must be approved by Interacting With Crx. "They Never Seem to Hear Me" is a collaborative piece along with a collaborative piece authored by Tim Piston, assoc. prof., of molecular physiology, U. of Calif., San Francisco. The second show, "Art and Social Sculpture" by German artists Renata Stih and Siebline H. St. Louis. It looks like it could be launch-management in space. It’s going to be a big deal. It looks like it could be launched into space.

Next week, the center and its departments, schools, centers, and their organizations may fill them out and return them. Event information will be approved by Interacting With Crx. "They Never Seem to Hear Me: Gendered Communication." It will be a big deal. It looks like it could be launched into space.

"The goal was simply to display the strongest, boldest work possible," said curator Philip Stein, director of the Des Lee Gallery. For example, Stein points to an untitled installation by Ron Loo, the Harry C. Cook Professor of Art, which seems to some "amazing labor-saving device that made of tubes, wires, and tiptop, the idea is that it could be launched into space."

JP. Tuesday, Sept. 28
8:30-10:30 a.m. Dr. loves (2003) in the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, the Art and Politics of Satire. The exhibition is drawn from a collection — given to the museum in honor of Eric C. Johnson of New York — of more than 440 French caricatures. The show will include works by Daumier, Grandville, Grandville, Philipp, Gil, Travies, Vernier, Remson and Le Peil, among others. For museum hours or more information, call 935-4552. On Oct. 1, the Fox Arts Center will present a "Festival of the Arts" from 5-7 p.m. on the grounds of Bixby, Greens and Steinberg. The festival will feature a wide range of arts activities as well as music and performances. Food and beverages will be available.

Saturday, Oct. 2
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Health Care Ethics Center CME Course. "Health Care Ethics for Physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals and for allied health professionals who are members of the Center for the Study of Health Care Ethics. Cost: $35. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 935-2081.

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Mumford to speak on new book

By LIAM OTTEN


The book also features a personal history by Constantine Michaelidis, dean of architecture from 1973-5, and memories by his former major professor, Joseph Passonneau and George Ammann.

Fumihiko Maki, the Pritzker Prize-winning former faculty member of the Sam Fox School of Art and Architecture, also contributed a memoir, as did alumnus Oyo Otaba, a founding principle partner of Kassenbach, the international firm headquartered at St. Louis. Modern Architecture in St. Louis is published by the School of Architecture and distributed by University of Chicago Press. The book, which includes more than 100 archival photographs and drawings, was designed by Ken Rotnick, associate professor of art, and Ben Keddle at the end of St. Louis. It retails for $40 and is available from the Campus Store. Mumford came to the School of Architecture in 1994. He is the author of The CAAM Discourse on Urbanism, 1929-1980 (2000), the only book-length history of Modern Architecture. He has published and lectured nationally and internationally on CIAM, Josep Lluis Sert and various aspects of 20th-century architecture and urbanism.

His many honors include three grants from the Graham Foundation, including one in support of Modern Architecture in St. Louis. Mumford earned a doctorate from the Princeton University School of Architecture. He is a master of architecture from MIT in 1985, and a bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1979. A licensed architect, he practiced in New York City for much of the 1980s and spent a term at the Architectural Association in London. In 1987-90, he was a visiting professor at the Department of Architecture at Harvard. Mumford is free and open to the public. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Greens Hall. For more information, call 935-6200 or go online to www.record.wustl.edu

Tuesday, Oct. 5
4:30-6 p.m. Center for the Arts and Humanities Day-Long Workshop— "The Poetics of Rhetoric方面的诗歌."
6:15 p.m. "Dance Program Lecture/Demonstration—British Dance Company" in Umrath Hall, Rm. 157.
7 p.m. "Sangita Pathways Series—Sangeeta Bhattacharya & Mukunda Chatterjee—Sangeeta Bhattacharya & Mukunda Chatterjee—" in Umrath Hall, Rm. 157. Both events are free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Oct. 6
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Worship

Saturday, Sept. 25
10 a.m. "The Tennessee Presbyterian Church will honor the memory of Robert Browning, who served as pastor of the church from 1839 to 1842." In the Memorial Meeting, 10 a.m. in the Church. "The Service of Thanksgiving" will be held by Anne Quenette since 1994.

Monday, Oct. 4
10 a.m. "Tennessee Presbyterian Church will honor the memory of Robert Browning, who served as pastor of the church from 1839 to 1842." In the Memorial Meeting, 10 a.m. in the Church. "The Service of Thanksgiving" will be held by Anne Quenette since 1994.

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Nicholas Dudukovic
Dudukovic, Ph.D., has been the Ha- 
sim award recipient in the Pro- 
essor of Accounting at the Col- 
University of Illinois. He is mi- 
ly credited with revitaliz- 
the Olivin School of 
goals he be- 
ed until recently — and for 
it instrumentation 
search standards in the ac- 
accounting pro- 
he earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana State University (1954) and a doctorate (1961) from the University of Illinois, both in accounting. Prior to his tenure at Washington University, he spent 14 years at the universities of Chica- 
and Indiana University.
Dudukovic has edited the Journal of Dynamic Research and has served on the editorial board of several professional publications. A prolific writer, he has published more than 30 research papers and five books. He has received the American Institute of Certified Public Ac- 
countants Award and twice an Outstanding Alumni Award, both from the American Accounting Association. In 2001, he was named an Honorary Member of the Accounting Hall of Fame.

Milorad P. Dudukovic
Dudukovic, Ph.D., holds the Louis G. Human Chair in the School of Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering and directs the Chemical Reaction Engineer- ing Laboratory, all in the School of Engineering & Applied Science. He is a native of Serbia (former Yugoslavia), where he earned a bache- lor’s degree in chemical engineering, with the University of Belgrade. He earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from the Illinois Institute of Technology, where he also taught for a year.

After a brief stint at Ohio Un- 
iversity, Dudukovic joined the Washington University faculty in 1974 as an associate professor of chemical engineering. Early in his tenure, Dudukovic desig- 
ated as a professor in Chem- 
ical Engineering Laboratory as an interface for transferring technol- 
ogy from academia to industry. His focus is on developing programs to create opportunities to bring new technology to market.

Keynote speaker Mathis
Giving the keynote address at this year’s Foundation Breakfast is a broad- 

Can never have enough math... 

Science and Technology, in which he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is the creator of several organizations and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is the creator of several organizations and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is the creator of several organizations and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is the creator of several organizations and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is the creator of several organizations and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Nicholas Dopuch
Dopuch, Ph.D., has been the Ha- 

In 2000, he was named a fellow of the American Chemical Society, a prestigious honor for chemical engineers. His research interests include the development and application of computational methods for studying the reactivity and selectivity of chemical reactions. He has published numerous papers in scientific journals and has given presentations at conferences around the world. His work has contributed to the understanding of catalytic processes and their applications in the chemical industry.

Matthews is the author of four best- 

Dudukovic has been named Engineering Professor of the Year at STEEP.

Beata Grant
Grant, Ph.D., is professor of Chi- 

His research focuses on the use of bioinformatics techniques to study biological systems. He has been awarded several grants and fellowships to support his research. He is also a member of the editorial board of several scientific journals.

Dudukovic has been named Engineering Professor of the Year at STEEP.
start running around campus, because parking will be severely impacted from Oct. 1-8 as well.

From Oct. 1-7, parking on the western end of the Hilltop Campus will become progressively more challenging. Parking will be available at West Campus, with shuttle service to the Hilltop available through Oct. 7.

Then on Oct. 8, parking throughout the Hilltop Campus will be significantly restricted, and vehicle access will be limited to those with a University-issued or other authorized parking permit. Shuttle service between the Hilltop and West campuses will not be possible because shuttles will not be able to use Forsyth Boulevard.

Also on Oct. 8, no classes will be held after 3 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. all buildings on the Hilltop Campus will be locked and access to all offices and classrooms will require key-card access and authorized identification. If possible, Hilltop employees should consider working from home.

Individuals and groups may gather for meetings and events on the University's intramural field at the Athletic Complex. Twelve student teams participated in separate men's and women's divisions. Proceeds from the event benefited the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Heart

Exercise found to be as effective as the drug in reducing key health factors

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medication group, there were three participants whose blood pressure did not respond to treatment and who were referred back to their primary care physicians for further treatment.

A total of 28 volunteers who had been 66 years of age completed the six months of the study — 16 in the exercise group, 12 in the medication group.

As expected based on previous studies, the medication was about twice as effective in lowering systolic blood pressure — the top number in a blood pressure reading.

But the team found that exercise was as effective as the drug in reducing other key health factors, such as the thickness of the heart muscle in the lower chambers of the heart, called the heart wall.

And in reducing heart mass, as expected by Ehsani, was exercise as effective as hydrochlorothiazide in reducing the overall mass of the heart.

"One of the most dangerous effects of high blood pressure is its effect on heart mass," he said. "When you have high blood pressure, the heart has to work harder to pump blood to the rest of the body, which in turn results in a condition called hypertrophic, or an increase in the heart's mass."

And for a key finding, according to Ehsani, was that exercise was as effective as hydrochlorothiazide in reducing the overall mass of the heart.

"Hypertrophy itself predisposes patients to conditions like heart rhythm abnormalities and can lead to heart failure," Ehsani said.

Ehsani's team also evaluated the effect of the two treatments on metabolic conditions such as resistance to insulin, a precursor to diabetes. Exercise significantly reduced insulin resistance and improved aerobic capacity, whereas hydrochlorothiazide had no effect on either.

"Based on our findings, my view is that patients with the early stages of high blood pressure should try to exercise and lose weight and see what happens," Ehsani said.

"If that doesn't work, they need to be treated with medications. But it's also possible that exercise and drugs have an additive effect in some people, and that some combination of the two will be the best option."
William C. Chapman enhances the University's abdominal transplant programs

BY GILA Z. REICKS

A competitive horseback rider growing up, William C. Chapman, M.D., thought he wanted to be a veterinarian. But when it came time to decide between treating animals or humans, Chapman was swayed by some sage advice.

"I was always frustrated by the notion that, for various reasons, veterinarians sometimes have to put an animal to sleep even though they have the capacity to intervene," he explains. "My room contained me that beyond the frustration factor, at times, it would be a waste of my skills, talent and work."

It's fitting that Chapman, chief of the abdominal transplantation section, is now highly respected as a liver transplant specialist — a field responsible for treating some of the sickest, most dear patients with some of the most dramatic recoveries.

In fact, the opportunity to make such a remarkable impact on people's lives is what initially drew him to surgery.

With several family members in the medical field, Chapman was exposed to medicine at an early age. By the end of high school, he had already spent one summer exposure to medicine at an early age. By the end of high school, he had already spent one summer working in a research laboratory and another helping in the operating room. Though his father was an anesthesiologist, Chapman was awe-struck by the magic of surgery.

"How real the anesthesiologists face as many challenges in the OR as we do," he says, "but from my naive, high-school perspective, I decided anesthesia was the surgery side."

On the research track

From high school through medical training, Chapman's desire for surgery never wavered. But there was one development he didn't anticipate: a love for academia.

As part of his surgery residency training at Vanderbilt University, Chapman was required to complete at least one year of research. Having intended to go into private practice after finishing his residency, he, like many of his peers, first viewed the research requirement as a simple necessity for training. Instead, it ended up changing the course of his career.

"I found research to be exciting and challenging, and I loved having the ability to pose new questions with important clinical impact," he says. "I also realized that I really enjoy the educational environment. The academic curiosity that house staff and students provide stimulates faculty."

The then-young subspecialty of liver transplantation offered an ideal opportunity to satisfy his years for a challenge. The field was just beginning to blossom when Chapman finished his residency at Vanderbilt in 1991, and he went to King's College Hospital in London for his fellowship. Liver transplants had been attempted since the 1960s, but few were successful until the mid-1980s, when the drug cyclosporine began helping prevent rejection of transplanted organs.

Chapman gained experience on a wide range of liver procedures in England, including transplants. When he returned to Vanderbilt the following year, he was asked to join the newly formed transplant team. In addition to the allure of the field's technical complexity, Chapman realized that experience both in transplant and in non-transplant surgery would allow him to most effectively treat patients.

"It's often not immediately clear whether you should treat a liver problem with transplant or non-transplant surgery," he says. "So to me, one of the appeals to being a transplant surgeon was having the ability to utilize all surgical options."

A surgical success

Chapman's appreciation for combining research, clinical care and education was fostered by 15 years combining research, clinical care and education at the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance. Chapman was already a superb surgeon, and before long he became one of the most popular and sought-after surgeons not only at Vanderbilt but also in the Nashville region. O'Neill says, "He became the mainstay of the liver transplantation team and organized his extensive practice in such a fashion that virtually everything was able to be used for clinical research projects."

"He also had special talents in education and was recognized by our surgical residents with the highest education award our surgical residents with the highest education award our surgical residents with the highest education award our surgical residents with the highest education award our surgical residents with the highest education award our surgical residents with the highest education award our surgical residents with the highest education award".

"He's a true leader — he approaches problems in a very calm and collected fashion and really gets results. He's very bright and level-headed and is respected by everyone who comes in contact with him." — GREGGORD A. SICARD

William C. Chapman, M.D., discusses his work with Guthrie Institute.

"What really impresses me about Will is what a great listener he is," says Jeffrey S. Crippen, M.D., medical director of liver transplantation and associate professor of medicine, says of Chapman, "He is one of those who recognizes that listening to the opinions of others is the key to being not only a leader, but also a great doctor and administrator."

Chapman's accomplishments span the medical school's tripartite mission. On the clinical side, he initiated plans for a pancreas-transplant program and recruited a new transplant surgeon, Nairaj M. Desai, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, to direct the program. In addition, there has been significant growth in the abdominal transplantation section, with increases in liver and kidney transplants by about 25 percent each year.

He also boosted the program's research efforts by formalizing the clinical research program and recruiting two full-time clinical research nurses. Additionally, he launched a focused clinical trials group in which experts from all areas involved in transplant research meet at least monthly to develop strategies for clinical trials. On the training end, he resurrected the transplant fellowship program and helped secure fellowships for the next three years.

"There's no question we made the right decision in selecting Will Chapman as the head of transplant," says Gregorio A. Sicard, M.D., vice chairman of the Department of Surgery and chief of the Division of General Surgery and the Section of Vascular Surgery. "He's a true leader — he approaches problems in a very calm and collected fashion and really gets results. He's very bright and level-headed and is respected by everyone who comes in contact with him."