Nanotechnology: Cancer center is formed via grant

BY GWEN ERICKSON

Nanotechnology particles developed at the School of Medicine could offer hope of replacing numerous medical tests, scans or surgeries with a single injection. The tiny spheres can travel through the bloodstream deep into the body to locate and highlight tumors undetectable by typical scans. While doctors are not ready to send the nanoparticles directly inside the body to destroy the tumors, the technology has promise.

To advance this promising technology, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded $16 million over five years to the School of Medicine to establish the Siteman Comprehensive Cancer NanoTechnology Excellence Center (SCCNE). The NCI also awarded funding for six other Centers of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNe) around the United States. The SCCNe will research and apply nanotechnology for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

The center will be headed by Samuel A. Wickline, M.D., professor of medicine and of cellular biology in the School of Medicine; of biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science; and of physics in Arts & Sciences. He and Gregory M. Lamza, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of medicine, developed nanoscale particles that can home in on tumor cells to carry imaging agents and drug therapies directly to tumor sites.

Successfully capable of supporting a wide variety of imaging, imaging and therapeutic agents, nanotechnology offers several advantages over traditional techniques. It can provide more-accurate visualization and characterization of tumors, revealing even tiny tumors in medical scans. It gives the ability to focus chemotherapy agents directly to the biochemical and molecular features of each patient's disease.

"We've entered an era of precisely targeted and individualized cancer therapy," Wickline said. "Our nanotechnology will strongly affect the practice of medicine. And the grant from the NCI will allow us to build a highly effective collaborative network to bring the technology rapidly to clinical use in the treatment of cancer."

In addition to developing general nanotechnology applications, the SCCNe will focus its efforts on breast cancer and melanoma detection and treatment. Some projects planned for the center include:

• Targeting of multiple tumors for early detection of cancer: A nanoparticle-based contrast agent for ultrasonic imaging and therapy of tumors.
• Statistical tools to model the behavior of nanoscale particles in the body and how nanoscale agents can rapidly screen potential anti-cancer drugs in single cells.
• The investment in cancer-related nanotechnology by the NCI is a show of confidence that this technology will truly advance cancer research and development. Wickline, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and See Grant, Page 6

Headlines

Could hunter-gatherers have been more sophisticated than we once thought?

BY NEIL SCHONHERR

The typical picture of the hunter-gatherer community is that of a small number of people wandering across the landscape, hunting for food and gathering nuts and berries. They were not complex in their political and social organization and are thought of as very simple people. But could that traditional viewpoint be completely wrong?

T.R. Kiddler, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences, thinks it may be, especially for the hunter-gatherer communities in Southern and Eastern parts of the United States. Kiddler has been studying the Poverty Point site in northeastern Louisiana. The site, near the town of Epps, is one of the largest mound sites in North America. It also is one of the oldest — it existed from 1700-1100 B.C., and the people who lived there were hunter-gatherers. The site is about 5 kilometers square and features a large earth mound that is 72 feet tall and 700 feet long and wide. There are concentric ridges around the mound where Kiddler theorizes people lived, given the evidence of disposed garbage.

He and his team wanted to know how the site came into being. Through examination of the evidence, two prominent theories arose. "The first is a conventional model," Kiddler said. "A small group of hunter-gatherers may have come to the area around 1700 B.C., stayed for a while and then moved out. Then another small group of people came to the site and stayed for a short time. Then another and another. "So after 600-700 years, there could be incremental construction of the site by many generations of small groups of people. That would be in keeping with the traditional hunter-gatherer model."

See Hunter, Page 6

Fish in ponds benefit flowering plants

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

Fish and flowering plants would hardly have as much in common as pigs and beauty soap. But ecologists at WUSTL and the University of Florida have found an amazing relationship between the two species. The species, which provides a new understanding for understanding how ecosystems "hook up."

A team of researchers, headed by Tiffany Knight, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, has shown a correlation between the presence of fish in ponds and well-pollinated St. John's wort (Hypericum fasciculatum, from the family Hyperica¢eae) at a Florida research station.

The team checked out eight ponds at a University of Florida preserve, four containing fish, the other four fish-free. They found that whereas St. John's wort plants near the fish ponds were far better pollinated than those near the fish-free ponds.

The reason? Fish reduce, if not eliminate, dragonflies and other predators that eat the bee's attention; thus, both species benefit mutually.

A novel find

"This cross-ecosystem linkage is a novel find," Knight said. "We've shown that species interactions can reverberate across two different ecosystems and have major implications for the food web and species' survival."

"The work is different from most trophic cascade — food web — studies in that it incorporates mutualism instead of focusing strictly on predator-prey relationships. Taking a complex life history into account also presents new insights into ecological processes. A dragonfly's life history is what ecologists call "mutualism."

See Fish, Page 6

Health plan, flex spending open enrollment is Oct. 15-Nov. 30

Due to changing the health/ dental insurance plans to calendar year, the Office of Human Resources is conducting another open-enrollment period this fall.

This is the first time that the University is combining the annual enrollment in the health/ dental insurance plans and the health and child-care flexible spending plans.

The open-enrollment period is from Oct. 15-Nov. 30, with all changes effective Jan. 1. Any addition, change or cancellation of health or dental insurance, or flexible spending, must take action and complete and send the enrollment form to the benefits office before the deadline.

An open-enrollment brochure will be sent to campus boxes during the week of Oct. 17. This brochure includes information about plan changes, scheduled employee meetings and vendor days, enrollment by Nov. 30. Confirmations will be sent by e-mail or by mail. Faculty and staff who don't wish to make changes to their health/dental plans are not required to take action.

However, those wishing to participate in the health and/or child-care flexible spending plans must take action and complete and send the enrollment form to the benefits office before the deadline.

See Health, Page 6
Trustees elect David P. Conner as new member

At its Oct. 7 meeting on the Hilltop Campus, the University Board of Trustees elected David P. Conner, chief executive officer of Overseas-Chinese Banking Corp. in Singapore, as a new member.

The election was announced by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Conner, a WUSTL Arts & Sciences graduate, earned an M.B.A. from Columbia University, beginning his career in 1976 with Citibank, a multinational financial institution in Asia and the Pacific region. He served as managing director and member of the Board of Citibank Indonesia, chief executive officer of Citibank India, country corporate officer of Citibank Singapore, and in 2002 was named through his office of Overseas-Chinese Banking Corp. 

"We are extremely pleased that David Conner will be joining our board," Wrighton said. "His leadership in Asia, his loyal service to Washington University and his accomplishments in the international arena have proven immensely helpful to the University."

In other action, the trustees received a letter from Wrighton on the status of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses. Lynn V. Stierman, a marketing executive, will be the representative on the council.

Wrighton announced that a dedication of the Farrell Learning Center and the Edward H. and Florence G. Skinson Institute for Public Service on Sept. 22 and the dedication of the Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Business on Sept. 23, 2006, will be held the Oct. 15 for students and the dedication of the Richard A. Grep- hart Institute for Business on Sept. 19; and the dedication of the Edward H. and Florence G. Skinson Institute for Public Service on Sept. 22. The dedication of the Farrell Learning Center will be held on Oct. 15 for members of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses. Speakers will touch upon such issues as the importance of diversity in campus and business environments, faculty and students, and other diversity retreat will be held on Oct. 15, 2006. The dedication of the Farrell Learning Center will be held on Oct. 15 for members of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses. The dedication of the Farrell Learning Center will be held on Oct. 15 for members of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses. A long-term commitment to diversity in campus and business environments, faculty and students, and other diversity retreat will be held on Oct. 15, 2006. The dedication of the Farrell Learning Center will be held on Oct. 15 for members of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses. The dedication of the Farrell Learning Center will be held on Oct. 15 for members of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses. The dedication of the Farrell Learning Center will be held on Oct. 15 for members of the University Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on University and their spouses.
Less severe colds, milder flu may be on the horizon

By Gwen Erison

E lasted to help fight viral
infections, immune cells
called macrophages consume
virus-infected cells to stop
the spread of infection.

Now, School of Medicine
researchers have uncovered how
macrophages keep from succom-
bining to the infection them-
theselves. Boosting this mechanism
may be a way to speed recovery
from respiratory infections.

The researchers found that
a specific protein produced by
cells of respiratory viral infec-
tions can serve to protect mac-
rophages from an untimely death.
A report will appear in an
upcoming issue of Nature Medi-
cine and was available at the jour-
nal's website on Oct. 9.

"If the macrophages were to
die, the infection would spread
further into the lung, and this was
a problem," said John G. Holtz-
man, M.D., the Selma and Herman Seldin Professor of Medicine and director of
pulmonary medicine. "But in the
case of CCL5, it is the opposite. Pre-
venting the death of the macro-
phage allows the host to ultimate-
ly clear the viral debris and so
finally halt the infection. Balan-
cing these cell death and survival
events is important to determine
whether the virus or the host wins
the battle."

Next, the researchers will look
further at precisely how CCL5
prevents death.

In this initial study, we iden-
tified the cellular receptor for
CCL5 and some of the first
downstream signals that convey
a survival message," Holtzman said.

"Now, we aim to define more
specifically the signaling proteins
that allow the cell to live or die in
the face of infection."

Identifying these signals may
allow us to regulate these signals
during an infection, and so make
epithelial cells and macrophages
more effective to shorten recovery
time or lessen symptoms."

The ability to decrease the se-
verity of lung infections may also
have important implications for
asthma, chronic obstructive pul-
monary disease and other chronic
lung disorders, according to Holtz-
man.

We commonly see children,
for example, who develop these
same types of severe respiratory
infections as infants and then go
on to develop asthma later," Holtz-
man said. "If we can improve the
outcome from this first interac-
tion with the viruses, we are very likely to also
prevent the later development of persist-
ent airway disease."

Michael L. Holtzman

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Michael L. Holtzman

Mechanism. Death of infected
during the initial phases of the
infection would deprive the virus
of its home and protect the host
against the spread of infection.

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Michael L. Holtzman
Spoken-word artists Universes bring Slanguage to Edison Theatre

BY LIAM OTTEN

From hip-hop and blues to ballads and salsas, the cutting-edge poetry collective Universes captures the distinctive sounds and percussive rhythms of their native South Bronx, N.Y.

Universes will make its St. Louis debut at Edison Theatre late this month with Slanguage, a blistering yet emotive depiction of modern urban life.

Performances—which launch the 33rd annual Edison Theatre OVATIONS! Series—will be at 8 p.m., Oct. 21-22.

Like Russell Simmons’ Def Poetry Jam or the Nuyorican Poets Café, Universes arose from New York’s vibrant (and fiercely competitive) spoken-word scene. Each of the five members was well-known as a solo artist when the group formed in 1998 and soon began performing at major venues such as PS 122 and the New York Shakespeare Festival’s Public Theatre. Today the troupe boasts its own University City Theatre Network in the Bronx.

In 1999, Universes began collaborating with Obie Award-winning playwright-performer Eric B. Bonney from Edison's own UniverseCity.

Spoken-word artists Universes bring to Edison Theatre programs are widely recognized by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, the Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis and private contributors.

Tickets are $26, $24 for seniors and University faculty and staff and $18 for students and children.

They are available at the Edison Theatre Box Office and through all MetroTix outlets. For more information, call 935-4643.

The Tale of Genji • Looking for St. Louis • Painless Defibrillation

Landing a band Junior Matt Gropler (foreground) and sophomore Andrew Stern help arrange plants while setting up for the Missouri Botanical Garden’s annual Best of Missouri Market Sept. 27.

Many University students volunteered to help organizers prepare for the Oct. 1-2 event. The market featured 120 vendors selling canned good, flowers, plants and vegetables, baked goods and candles, all from Missouri.

Wednesday, Oct. 19

8:30-10:30 a.m. Center for the Application of Research on Occupational Health and Safety (CARRHAS) Seminar Series.

"The Information Workplace: Big Changes Ahead in the World of Work." L. P. Rogers, consultant. (For more information, call 935-4444.

3:30-5:30 p.m. Carl Alston Lecture Series: "Tennis in the Tropics: An Introduction to Contemporary Afro-Caribbean Art," L.A. and contemporary art. (For more information, call 935-4444.

6:30-9:30 p.m. Volleyball: "Women’s Basketball vs. Saint Louis University." (For more information, call 935-4444.

4:30-7:00 p.m. Romance Languages & Literatures Lecture Series: "Music, Verse, and Romance: Laura Poitier “The Power of Images.”" Phyllis Galembo, photographer. (For more information, call 935-4444.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Dance: "Contemporary Dance: "Noninvasive Monitoring of Skeletal Muscle."" Tiffany Frimel, biology & microbiology, U. of N.M. Health Sciences.

10:00-11:00 p.m. Siteman Cancer Center Basic Sciences Center: "Gene Therapy: An Emerging Technology in Cancer Research.

Monday, Oct. 17

5:30-8:00 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series: "Memory CD4 T Cell Development During Chronic Leishmaniasis.

8:30-10:30 p.m. Romance Languages & Literatures Lecture Series: "Music, Verse, and Romance: Laura Poitier “The Power of Images.”" Phyllis Galembo, photographer. (For more information, call 935-4444.

9:00-11:00 p.m. Dance: "Contemporary Dance: "Noninvasive Monitoring of Skeletal Muscle."" Tiffany Frimel, biology & microbiology, U. of N.M. Health Sciences.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

9:00-11:00 a.m. Neuroscience Research Seminar Series: "Memory CD4 T Cell Development During Chronic Leishmaniasis.

11:30-1:30 a.m. Center for the Study of Ethics & Human Values Seminar. "Healoethical Lessons Learned From the Experience of Treating Cancer Patients.

4:00-6:00 p.m. Romance Languages & Literatures Lecture Series: "Music, Verse, and Romance: Laura Poitier “The Power of Images.”" Phyllis Galembo, photographer. (For more information, call 935-4444.

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Friday, Oct. 21

The following Saturday workshops and events:

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11:30-1:30 a.m. Center for the Study of Ethics & Human Values Seminar. "Healoethical Lessons Learned From the Experience of Treating Cancer Patients.

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School buses and tour buses routinely make stops around town.

No. 1 volleyball team wins Classic

The No. 1 volleyball team went 4-0 to win the Bears Classic Oct. 7-8 at the Field House. The Bears beat Northwestern University Oct. 7, 11-2, 11-4, 11-4 and Notre Dame University Oct. 7, 2-1, 11-8, 11-3.

C-SPAN-TV presents 48

Each weekend, Book TV, an affiliate of C-SPAN, will be just west of Mallinckrodt Student Center, Noon-11 p.m. Work, Families, and Public Policy national quarterfinals, Washing-

The following incidents were reported to University Police Oct. 5-9. Residents with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 935-4993. This information is provided as a public service to promote safety awareness and does not reflect a police inquiry or a police work product.

Oct. 10

7:20 p.m. — Four juvenile males were located trespassing in the area of the bike racks near the Earth & Planetary Sciences Building. Officers were contacted and the subjects were identified, warned against trespassing and released.

Additionally, University Police responded to four larceny, three assault, and seven missing persons reports. One report of each included identity theft, fire and lost wallet.

Worship

Oct. 25

7:15 p.m. — Global on Campus Einacht Jewish Center. To reserve, call 935-8700.

And more!

Monday, Oct. 17

8 a.m. — Disability Resource Center. To register, call 935-4705.

Worship

Oct. 25

7:15 p.m. — Global on Campus Einacht Jewish Center. To reserve, call 935-8700.

The bunny's evil twin?

Photographer Physlis Galembo will speak about her work at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 in Steinberg Auditorium for the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts' Visiting Artist Lecture Series. Galembo is renowned for documenting religious costumes and rituals in Africa, Brazil and Haiti. Her work has been collected in five monographs — including most recently Drewed for Thrilla, 100 Years of Halloween Costumes and Mummies (2003) — and displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the American Museum of Natural History in New York, among many other museums. Picture above is her Evil Bunny (2001).
Hunter
Mound-building suggests high level of organization — from Page 1

The alternative explanation, and the one that grams more accurate, is that the site was constructed in a short period of time by a large population using sophisticated political and social organization.

Kidder and his team spent the summer excavating a dirt plat- form on one side of the large mound. According to his analysis of dirt layers and lack of erosion, the platform was constructed in a year.

“We believe they built this entire platform in a period so brief that there was no erosion of dirt taking place,” Kidder said. “Also, there would have to be a pretty sizable population to build a mound this size. It would have taken between 7 million and 10 million people working 24 hours a day just to build the platform we examined.”

“That’s a lot of dirt. Even working all day long, it’s not something that a lot of people could do in that kind of time frame.”

The results of the mound study also suggests a very high level of social and political organization.

Fish
Preservation can alter competitive relationships — from Page 1

complex. Knight explained, in that, like an amphibian, it occu- pics two different habitats during its life — thus becoming a con- duct between one habitat, the pond, and another, the landscape near a pond.

The results were published in the Oct. 6 issue of the journal Nature.

“The study shows how spatial mobility can lead to sur- prisingly strong couplings among disparate habitats in complex landscapes,” said Robert D. Holt, Ph.D., professor of biology at the University of Florida and a study co-author. “A recognition of this fact opens up fresh questions that need to be explored by both theo- retic ecologists and natural resource managers.”

Not only did the team observe more piscivores in landscapes near ponds with fish, but they also saw differences in the kind of piscivores. Most visis- tors near ponds with fish were

Grant
SCCNE to be housed in new building from Page 1

“By bringing these creative laboratory innovations to practical medical application, the SCCNE will become a vital part of the School of Medicine’s BioMimicry Initiative.”

LARRY J. SHAPIRO

Hydropotes — for the most part, bees — compared with interactions at the fish-free ponds, mainly flies. Hypericata have evolved traits that attract bees, and so bees may be better pollinators of Hypericata than flies. The effect of reduced predator visits near fish-free ponds might be magnified, Knight said, in part because the few visits made to the area from flies and moths, rather than bees.

Knight noted that the vegetation structures of such ponds were similar and also experimented with another flowering plant, Sagittaria latifolia, and came up with similar results to what they found with Hypericata.

Avoiding fish-free ponds

The researchers also found that piscivores tend to avoid fish-free ponds because of the presence of dragonflies. Likewise, there is evidence showing the importance of laying eggs in ponds with fish. Knight noted that many organisms (amphibians, for example) with terrestrial life stages also are key aquatic predators, so the reverse — a cascade from terrestrial to aquatic eco- system — also is true.
Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members at the University. Others will be introduced periodically in this space.

Jessica Rosengold, Ph.D., joins the Department of English in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. She recently earned a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, with a dissertation titled "The Ethics of Courtly Love: Narrative Transformations of Love in the Middle Ages." She earned a B.A. from the University of Puget Sound in 1997. Her research and teaching interests include courtly poetry, moral philosophy, psychoanalytic theory and gender studies.

Nancy Reynolds, Ph.D., joins the Department of History in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. She earned a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2005, an M.A. from Stanford in 1995, and an A.B. from Harvard University in 1989. She specializes in the social, cultural and economic history of the modern Middle East and women's history, and her research explores the history of commerce, commodities, and cosmopolitanism in Egypt in the first half of the 20th century.

Martin Kennedy joins the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor of composition. He received a B.A. from the Juillard School and his M.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Indiana. He has received several prestigious composition honors, including five ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, a BMI Student Composer Award and several publishing contracts with Theodore Presser Co. Music has been performed by the American Composers Orchestra, the Blooming- ton Symphony Orchestra, the Polish National Chamber Orchestra of Chicago, the Haddonfield Symphony and the Smithsonian Symph- ony Orchestra, among others.

Annie Margaret Bailey, Ph.D., joins the Department of Philosophy in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor, coming from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where she has had an ap- pointment since 2001. Bailey earned a B.A. in philosophy from Wellesley College in 1987 and a Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, in 2000. She was a fellow of the National Humanities Center in 2003-04. Her area of specialization is Kant's ethical theory. Having pub- lished a number of articles in that area, she is currently at work on a book titled Kant's Theory of Virtue: The Value of Autonomy.

Notables policy

To submit Notables for publication in the Record, e-mail items to Andy Clendennen at andy_clendennen@wustl.edu or fax to 935-4259.

The Dissolving Corporation

(EVA in cooperation with the Creative Finland Association, 2005)

For the Record

Third-year Medical Scientist Training Program student Katherine Lee recently was elected national president and second-year medical student Aaron Lee was elected senior regional director of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAM- SA). The elections took place at APMASSA's national meeting, held this year in Chicago.

Broken bones can cause some of the most painful traumatic injuries. Last spring, I experienced that reality firsthand when I fell nearly 12 feet off a ladder and severely fractured my wrist while painting my brother’s home in San Francisco.

By the time I landed in Chicago to make my transfer home, my arm was throbbing in pain, and my fingers were swollen to the size of an NFE linebacker’s. I called my internist from the airport, and he told me from the description of my symptoms, something was wrong. I needed to see an orthopaedic surgeon immediately.

Two hours later, I was in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, hamburger in hand. The swelling and intense pain most likely was caused by a temporary cast being put on too tightly in the emergency department in San Francisco. Whether it was the tight cast or the traumatic fall, my injury required surgical removal of the cast and offering patients tips to alleviate itching, a package of frozen peas reduces swelling with- out damaging the ligaments—are just a few of the reasons Rawls’ colleagues nominated him for the Guiding Star Award, one of the highest honors a clinician can receive at the School of Medicine.

In 2003, Rawls received the award, which honors a staff member who has a professionism, team- work and compassionate patient care while demonstrating an ongoing commitment to exceeding job responsibilities and creating a positive work environment. What impresses me most about Brian is that he is very much the same a clinician and as a person,” Szerzinski says. “He is genuine and sincere.”

Brian is truly a team player. He has a great attitude, and he treats everyone with respect,” says Szerzinski. “I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the healing process,” says a nurse in charge of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, “I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the healing process,” says a nurse in charge of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

He has always been there 100 percent for his patients,” says nurse Jean Szerzinski, Rawls’ supervisor and a clinical administrator in the Department of Orthopaedics. “I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the healing process,” says a nurse in charge of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Brian Rawls

Family: Wife, Roz; children: Nicole, 26; Tonya, 25; Angelo, 24; and Brittany, 18.

Age: 32, turned 33 in August, and I feel like life is just beginning.

What he loves most about casting: Helping patients through the healing process.

Most popular cast color: Right now, it’s not because the Cardinals are win- ning,” he says.

At the 2003 Clinical Employee Recognition reception, cast technician Brian Rawls of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery cele- brated winning the Guiding Star Award.