**Rapid changes measured in key Alzheimer’s protein**

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

For the first time, researchers have described hour-by-hour changes in the amount of amyloid beta, a protein that is believed to play a key role in Alzheimer’s disease, in the human brain.

"Proving that we can directly measure amyloid beta in the human brain is an important step forward for both clinical and basic research, and that may be true not just in Alzheimer’s disease but also in other serious neurological disorders," said co-first author David L. Brody, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of neurology who treats brain injury and neurology patients at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

A collaborative team of scientists at the School of Medicine and the University of Milan report their results in a recent issue of Science.

The results of the study contradicted the expectations of researchers, who were hoping to learn why brain injury is linked to higher risk of Alzheimer’s disease. They hypothesized that such injuries, caused by motor vehicle accidents, assaults and falls, would lead to an increase in amyloid beta levels. Instead, they found recovery from brain injury, rather than the injury itself, seemed to increase amyloid. The better a patient’s overall neurological status, the higher their amyloid beta levels rose.

"We can’t at this point rule out a very early spike in amyloid right after a brain injury," Brody said. "This study is just the beginning."

Amyloid beta levels were measured using a technique called microdialysis, which involves placing a small catheter into the brain tissue to sample the fluid in the spaces between cells. The Italian group, headed by Andrea Magnoni, M.D., and Nino Stocchetti, M.D., and located at the Milan-based trauma center Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, brought substantial previous experience with microdialysis to the study.

In the study, 18 patients recovering from traumatic brain injuries or ruptured brain aneurysms had microdialysis catheters placed in their brain tissues to measure amyloid beta while they were in the intensive-care unit and were having other monitoring procedures performed.

"The results have potentially important clinical implications because the measurement of amyloid beta in the human brain may turn out to be a good indicator of how well brain cells are communicating with each other, even in very sick patients," said senior author David S. Holtzman, M.D., the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and head of the Department of Neurology. "If the results are validated in further studies, this may help physicians in the future."
Program continues to evolve and grow – \textit{Page 1}

"This program continues to evolve in ways that we couldn't have envisioned when it started 10 years ago," said Bill Statton, associate dean of students for faculty programs and academic initiatives. "Each new faculty fellow and their family bring such unique interests and perspectives, and our program helps our students connect to each other and to their professors in unique and positive ways."

In all, there are five faculty fellows. Joining Ahmed, MacMullen and Rehfeld are Tili Boon, CUJ., associate professor of French in the Department of Romance, Languages & Literature, Arts & Sciences, who lives at Washington University, and J. Murphy Thompson, associate professor of English and of African and African American studies, both in Arts & Sciences, who lives in Park/Mudd.

MacMullen said that he and his wife, Louisa Fujayan, M.D., resident physician in general surgery at the School of Medicine, joined the program because "we both really enjoy getting to know students as people, not just paper-writers."

"My three years as a non-faculty fellow has taught me that there is a contagious energy and enthusiasm about residential life at the University; it's fun and inspiring to be a part of it," MacMullen said.

He said that while the program helps students see the human face of the faculty and dispel the sense of distance and intimidation, fac-

ulty members also benefit from a deeper and broader understanding of students and the undergraduate educational experience at the University.

Rehfeld, who lives with his wife, Maggie Greenberg, and his daugh-

ter, Emma, 14, and son, Hoben, 13, in Liggett/Koenig residential col-

Jorative, was interested in getting to know his students outside of the classroom.

"Teaching students gives me a rather narrow view of their lives and interests, what's of concern to them," he said. "This position is an excellent way to bridge the gap between simply professor/student interaction and opening up a space for a mutual appreciation of each other's experiences and cultural backgrounds."

All three professors plan pro-

gramming for students in their residential colleges.

Ahmed and his wife, a sculptor, plan to host three young St. Louis artists to share their work, sponsor a discussion for students to visit area art openings. They also will be showing an independent Iranian film followed by an informational discussion by a leading scholar.

The couple also will open their doors to the Way Cross resi-
dents once a month for coffee, cookies and conversation.

MacMullen and his wife will be hosting a weekly current affairs discussion group over dinner in their apartment and a series of social events that are open to students. "I'm also hoping to dust off my cellos and play some chamber music with Brookings residents," said he. Rehfeld also plans to trip to presidential libraries in Springfield, Ohio, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and De-

Rock, Ark. He also hopes to sponsor a "curious night" of Indian cat-

to discuss the first night of Rosh Hashana and groups of stu-

dents to watch the vice presidential debate.

"Though they've only been living on the South 40 for since last summer, all these enjoyings are nothing by the amount of time that Ahmed, MacMullen and Rehfeld have spent with their students."


tudents.

"We haven't measured how brain injury affects amyloid beta inside cells, but we have deter-

mined that whether brain injury affects the ability of amyloid beta to form small aggregates that may be cell-

ually harmful," he said.

A second explanation for the link between brain injury and Alzheimer's suggests that injury may reduce a brain's ability to compensate for Alzheimer's-related damage; making the symptoms of the disease evident much earlier than they would otherwise appear. Evidence exists for both models, and both could be valid in different settings:

"Our ultimate goal is to develop interventions that can apply after a traumatic brain injury to improve outcomes and reduce the long-term risk of Alzheimer's," he said.
Sensor that detects viruses identified

By CAROLINE ARBANAS

There's no cure for the so-called stomach flu, a group of highly communicable diseases that come with a vengeance, causing nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Doctors' defenses to fight off the infection are limited, only to halt tumour growth in a significant number of patients with endometrial cancer. The inhibitor drug proved effective even in endometrial cancer cell lines containing a commonly occurring mutation, PTEN, previously associated with resistance to drug treatment.

The findings appeared Sept. 2 in a paper published as a priority report by the journal Cancer Research.

Endometrial cancer, which invades the inner wall of the uterus, is the most common gynecological cancer in the United States. This year nearly 40,000 women will be diagnosed, and nearly 7,500 women will die of the disease, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS).

"This targeted approach holds great promise for patients with uterine cancer (endometrioid) tumors that contain the FGFR2 mutation and offers yet another powerful example of how genomic medicine is changing the way we look at and treat cancer," said Daniel Vnm Hoff, M.D., TGen's physician-in-chief.

Goody, also a professor of surgery and of obstetrics and gynecology at the School of Medicine, agreed, saying that the discovery could provide a new target for drug development. "TGen's almost 80 percent of these tumors to endometrial cancers.

"Our research strongly indicates that MDA-5 is the primary immune sensor for norovirus infection, but the body's ability to detect the virus is so important that it doesn't just rely on one sensor," said senior investigator Valeria Colonna, Ph.D., professor of immunology. "We found that another protein sensor — TLR3 — serves as a backup, since MDA-5, which has the ability to detect and respond to the "on" position and signal endometrial cells to grow out of control. Treatment of endometrial cancer can involve surgical removal of the tumour and chemotherapy. While many women are successfully treated with these approaches, about 15 percent of those with endometriod-endometrial cancer have persistent or recurring tumors that are resistant to current drug mutations. In these cases, genomic medicines have offered yet another powerful example of how genomic medicine is changing the way we look at and treat cancer," said Daniel Vnm Hoff, M.D., TGen's physician-in-chief.

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Women in Politics • Moliere • Star Formation

1 p.m. Kemper Art Museum Lecture. Topic: "The Role of Women in the Political Process". Speaker: Mimi Davidson. (3:30 p.m. coffee, networking.) Co-sponsored by the Gephardt Institute for Public Service. Danforth Auditorium, 4950 Children's Hospital Dr., St. Louis, 100 Carondelet Plaza. 362-6891.


8 a.m.-5 p.m. St. Louis STD/HIV Prevention Collaborative. (Co-sponsored by the St. Louis Regional Health District.) Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson Barracks Office Building, Rm. 927. 909-2139.

6:30 p.m. Sam Fox School Public Lecture Series. Topic: "Anatomy of a Murder". Speaker: John E. Suthers, Ph.D., forensic pathologist, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. (6:30 p.m. coffee, networking.) St. Louis Courthouse, 100 Carondelet Plaza. 362-4637.

7:30 p.m. Sam Fox School Public Lecture Series. Topic: "The Role of Women in the Political Process". Speaker: Mimi Davidson. (3:30 p.m. coffee, networking.) Co-sponsored by the Gephardt Institute for Public Service. Danforth Auditorium, 4950 Children's Hospital Dr., St. Louis, 100 Carondelet Plaza. 362-6891.


Tuesday, Sept. 19
9 a.m. Assembly Lecture. Topic: "The Role of Women in the Political Process". Speaker: Mimi Davidson. (3:30 p.m. coffee, networking.) Co-sponsored by the Gephardt Institute for Public Service. Danforth Auditorium, 4950 Children's Hospital Dr., St. Louis, 100 Carondelet Plaza. 362-6891.


Thursday, Sept. 25


7 p.m. Jewish. Umschlag & Eastern Shores Lecture Series. Topic: "African-American Logic: Formal Integrity or Unnatural Amino Acids to Probe Neuro-

in conjunction with "Birth of the Cool," the Kemper museum will also present "Some Like It Cool," a film series that will include screenings of "Rebel Without a Cause" (Dec 9), "Anatomy of a Murder" (Dec 10), and "North by Northwest" (Dec 11). "Birth of the Cool" opens with a reception at 7 p.m. Sept. 19 and runs through Oct. 5. Both the reception and exhibition are open and free to the public.

"Birth of the Cool" showcases 1950s California art, design and culture

The Kemper Art Museum is among America's leading museums of modern and contemporary art and is home to the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Art Collection. The museum's permanent collection comprises over 9,000 works of art, including comprehensive collections of California art, American art, European art, African art, and Native American art. The museum also provides a space for the university community to engage with the arts and to celebrate diversity, creativity, and innovation.

The museum's current exhibition, "Birth of the Cool," presents the work of some of the most influential and innovative artists of the 1950s and 60s, including Oskar Fischinger, David Hockney, and Richard Neudeck. The exhibition presents a variety of archival and documentary images as well as an innovative timeline and a gallery devoted to music, film, furniture, and fashion. The museum also presents "Some Like It Cool," a film series that will include screenings of "Rebel Without a Cause" (Dec 9), "Anatomy of a Murder" (Dec 10), and "North by Northwest" (Dec 11).

Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury.


Eco-fashion subject of Sam Fox symposium

By MARY KASTENS

Veteran New York journalist Elizabeth Kolbert visits the Washington University in St. Louis campus Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 4 p.m., in the installation of the Assembly Series. Her book, "Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Nature's报答, Culture’s Anomaly”, was released in 2006. Although the environmental issues discussed in the book were not new at the time of its publication, they are increasingly relevant today.

Kolbert was a political reporter for The New York Times for 14 years before joining The New Yorker in 1997.

She is a graduate of Yale University.

In 1998, she became executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund and, in 1999, became a New Yorker journalist. She has written extensively about environmental issues, and her articles have appeared in a number of publications, including The New Yorker, The New York Times, and The New York Times Magazine.

Kolbert is currently working on a book about the relationship between humans and nature, which is scheduled for publication in 2013.

Kolbert is a political commentator, and her articles have appeared in a number of publications, including The New Yorker, The New York Times, and The New York Times Magazine.

Kolbert is also a frequent guest on public radio programs, including "This American Life" and "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah." She has been awarded a number of honors, including the Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction in 2006, and the National Association of Black Journalists' Award for Excellence in Journalism in 2007.

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Kents’ generosity leads to undergraduate Olin scholarships

BY BARBARA REA

F or a handful of business majors entering Washington University this fall will be a diverse group, but there will be one common theme—generosity. The Kents have made a $5 million commitment to support undergraduate scholarships in the John Olin Business School. Beginning in the 2009-10 academic year, the Jerry and Judy Kent Scholars will be awarded to approximately five freshmen each year for the next seven years, and they will then renew for four years in Olin’s Billings Building. One freshman each year will be selected through a merit-based competition, the remaining awardees will be based on both merit and financial need. “The Kents have chosen a gift that will make a critical and immediate impact on the Olin School, the University and in the lives of many talented students,” said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “Scholarships open doors and create opportunities that may not otherwise have been possible. I am so grateful for the Kent generosity and proud to have those scholarships that bear their name.”

Mahendra Gupta, Ph.D., dean and the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil Professor of Accounting and Management at Olin Business School, shared Wrighton’s enthusiasm. “Our Scholars will benefit not only from the much-needed financial support but also from the Kent confidence they wield, which their financial commitment represents,” Gupta said.

“The Kent Scholars and the Kent family will share a special bond throughout their lifetimes. The impact of the Kents’ gift will have a monumental effect on our undergraduate program for years to come. I am honored and thankful for their gift,” Gupta said.

Jerry Kent’s bond with the University began as a business major and a member of the Institute of Radiology Radiochemistry and of biochemistry at the School of Medicine. The Michael J. Welch Award, which special- ized in the synthesis of new radioactive chemi- cals for medical imaging, is head of the School of Medicine. In 1977, he launched Charter Communi- cations in the field. It includes a $1,000 annually for outstanding work in the dervative. It is the third-largest broadband cable company early Under Coquel, Kent co-man-

undergraduate Olin scholarships

gets an award named for Welch. The Society for Nuclear Medicine and Biology (SNM) has created an annual award named for Welch. The prize recognizes work in the field. It includes a $1,000 honorarium. RPS president Robert H. Mach, Ph.D., professor of radiological science and of biochemistry and molecular biophys- ics at the School of Medicine, said the RPSC had been debat- ing for several years about whom to name the award for.

Welch disease. The Michael J. Welch Award, created by the Radiopharma- ceutical Sciences Council (RPSC) of the SNM, will be given annu- ally for outstanding work in the field. It includes a $1,000 honorarium.

The No. 2 volleyball team ran its 2008 record to 8-4 with four consecutive victories at home against Westminster College Sept. 9, 2006. The victory also was a milestone for coach Larry Kindboom, who captured the 150th win of his career in season 26 as head coach.

Football opens at home with a win

The Bears (1-0) limited Greenville to 22 points and 244 yards of offense in a 22-0 season-opening victory Sept. 6. The shutout was WUSTL’s first since a 61-0 win at Westminster College Sept. 9, 2006. The victory was also a milestone for coach Larry Kindboom, who watched the 150th win of his career in season 26 as head coach.

Greenville was held in the defeat. The No. 1 Juniata team had the entire game in the finale. The Panthers punt- ed nine times in the contest. WUSTL’s offense this weekend in the WU/ Juniata College.

Men’s soccer still looking for offense

The most soccer team will continue to try to get its offense on track after losing to Westminster College 2-1, in Fulton, Mo., Sept. 6 and falling to 1-2 on the season. WUSTL has scored four goals through three games this year, a year ago, the team was averaging four goals per game through its first three contests.

The Bears will try to find some offense for this weekend in the WU/ Vincennes Classic. They play Southwestern University at 8 p.m. Sept. 12, then Destiny University at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13.

Women’s soccer has 1-1-1 road trip

The No. 9 women’s soccer team ended its two-game road trip with a 4-2 come-from-behind victory at Claremont-Mudd- Scripps Colleges Sept. 7 in Claremont, Calif., to salvage a 2-2 road trip. Senior Lauren Mehner earned two goals, including the game-winner. Washington University (3-1-1) hosts Westminster College Sept. 12, then the Bears will travel to Coeur d’Alene, Idaho for a homecoming game against the Leopards. Women’s soccer will face the Crusaders in its next game.

Volleyball sets sights on No. 1 Juniata

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‘Access to Justice’ series begins Sept. 23

BY JESSICA MARTIN

Terry Smith, J.D., professor of law at Fordham University and nationally recognized expert on race and politics, will kick off the School of Law’s 11th annual Public Interest Law & Policy Series Speaker Series at noon Sept. 23 with a timely talk on politics and racism.

Titled “Access to Justice: The Social Responsibility of Lawyers,” the yearlong series brings to WUSTL nationally and internationally prominent experts in such areas as international human rights, the economics of poverty, racial justice, clinical legal education, government/public service and pro bono legal practice.

Karen L. Tokarz, J.D., the Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Public Service and director of the law school’s Dispute Resolution Program, coordinates the series in cooperation with faculty and student organizations.

All lectures will be held at noon in the Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom of Anheuser-Busch Hall unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jeanne Heil-Chapdelaine at 935-7567.

The schedule

• Sept. 23. Terry Smith, J.D., will present “Politics and Racism: Reflections on the Meaning of a Black President.” Smith is a Washington University Distinguished Visiting Scholar and a nationally recognized expert on race and the workplace, race and politics, voting rights and election law.

• Oct. 27. Betty Oyella Bigombe, the Africa Program Distinguished Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and senior fellow with the United States Institute of Peace, will discuss “The Challenges of Mediation: Peace Negotiations With the Lord’s Resistance Army and Other Conflicts in Uganda.” This lecture is co-sponsored by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute and the Dispute Resolution Program.

Bigombe is a senior international mediator with more than a decade of hands-on experience in conflict management/resolution, mediation and support services to war-torn societies. In addition to working in various departments at the World Bank, Bigombe served in the Ugandan government as minister of state, a position equivalent to cabinet rank and as deputy minister.

• Nov. 6. Mary Gade, J.D., former assistant secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, and former U.S. Department of Justice executive director, will speak about “The Seven Dirty Words You Should Never Use in the EPA: Thoughts for a New Administration.”

Gade, a 1977 graduate of the School of Law, administered federal environmental programs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. In addition to serving as a partner in the environmental practice group of Sommers, Nath & Rosenthal LLP, she held a number of EPA senior management positions in key environmental areas such as emergency response, Superfund cleanup and pollution prevention. She resigned from the EPA in May of this year.

• Nov. 12. 5:30 p.m. Philippe Sands, professor of international law and director of the Centre on International Courts at University College in London, will present “Fortune Team: Ruudolf’s Memo and the Betrayal of American Values.” This lecture is co-sponsored by the Harris World Law Institute.

Sands is an internationally recognized human rights lawyer, public commentator and author of the groundbreaking books “Lawless World: America and the Making and Breaching of Global Rules” and the recent “Futility Team: Cruelty, Deception and the Compromise of Law.”

• Nov. 19. Evan Wolfson, J.D., executive director and founder of Freedom to Marry, will present “Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality and Gay People’s Right to Marry.” Author of a book by the same name, Wolfson is a longtime lesbian and gay rights leader who has led the national movement for marriage equality in the United States.

While working at the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Wolfson became the first Lambda attorney to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, urging the justices to reject the Boy Scouts of America’s appeal of a unanimous ruling from the New Jersey Supreme Court striking down their ban on gay members and leaders.

In other cases, he championed lesbian and gay military personnel fighting for the right to serve, gay parents wishing to adopt children and preserve visitation rights, and New York City employees demanding equal health benefits and recognition for their partners.

First of many Fridays

At First Friday, a day of camaraderie and fun, the first Friday of classes, September 2008, marks the celebration of the first Friday of the new school year and features free food, inflatable games, student group sign-ups and entertainment.

Graduate student Brian Sinn (right) flips burgers for hungry First Friday participants.

American Foundation Lifetime Achievement award at the Salute to Excellence in Education Scholarship and Awards Luncheon in St. Louis Sept. 5...

Jason C. Mills, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, received a three-year, $205,000 grant from the Naval Research Laboratory for research titled “Visual Algorithms for Interactive Tracking in Surveillance Networks.”

Thaddeus Steappenbeck, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology & immunology and of developmental biology, received a five-year, $2,537,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute for research titled “Molecular Regulation of Graft Rejection in Different Tissues.”

Linda I. Pike, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, has received a $1,124,800 grant from the National Institutes of Health for research titled “TGF Receptor Activation and Interaction with ERBB Family Receptors.”

Robert Plow, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and engineering, has received a three-year, $200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for research titled “Immunological Control of g-herpesvirus Latency.”

Of note

William A. Frazier, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, has received a five-year, $1,126,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for research titled “Integrin Associated Proteins (CAMs) Are Thrombomodulin Receptor.”

C. Charles Ge, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry, has received a four-year, $384,000 grant from the National Institute of Health for research titled “Selective Signaling in Genomic, Epitopeogenic, and Immunoregulatory Studies of Cardiovascular Diseases.”

James E. Mcleod, vice chancellor for students and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, received the 2008 St. Louis...
Elaine R. Mardis (left) with her daughter, Lauren, on vacation in France.

Washington People

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Sept. 11, 2008

Elaine R. Mardis, Ph.D. (right), co-director of the Genome Sequencing Center (GSC), works with Lisa Cook, research lab manager, at a next-generation genome sequencing machine. "Elaine’s task is to figure out what technology is the real deal, what is hype and what is worth taking a closer look at, and then make the decision about whether we should devote time and resources to take a new technology to the next level," says Richard K. Wilson, Ph.D., director of the GSC.

Mardis stays on top of technology to help pinpoint causes of disease.

BY CAROLINE ARBANAS

Elaine R. Mardis (left) with her daughter, Lauren, on vacation in France.

Genome technology whiz

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