Drug therapy for premature infants destroys brain cells in mice

A class of drugs used in premature infants to treat chronic lung damage can cause damage to brain cells, says author Kevin K. Noguchi, Ph.D., staff scientist at the National Center for Advanced Biomedical Applications at Washington University in St. Louis. "You can imagine that if you kill the cells responsible for producing new neurons, you have problems breathing."

The researchers found that the synthetic glucocorticoids dexamethasone and betamethasone, commonly prescribed to treat chronic lung damage, can cause the development of premature lungs, damage the brain's cerebellum, the structure that controls movement, as well as other functions.

Drug cells in the mice died following glucocorticoid treatment when the drugs were given between four and 10 days after birth. The corresponding window in human infants would be about 30 weeks of gestation to six weeks following birth. That's also the time span in which these drugs are given to pregnant women at risk for preterm birth or to prematurely born infants who are having problems breathing.

The cells that are damaged are called neural progenitor cells, which are responsible for producing new neurons, said first author Kevin K. Noguchi, Ph.D., staff scientist in the Department of Psychiatry. "So you can imagine that if you kill the cells responsible for producing new neurons, you can cause severe neurodevelopmental deficits."

That's exactly what the researchers found. See Therapy, Page 5

- Lack of money to buy gifts;
- Not feeling as "jolly" as the media tells and shows them you ought to feel;
- Experiencing the holidays differently as they grow older;
- Having to deal with "family dynamics" when they return home;
- Overindulgence in food and alcohol;
- Feeling rushed to get everything done (shopping, studying for finals, baking, etc.);
- Feelings about friends and family not present during celebrations;
- Fear of not celebrating winter break the way they would like to.

With finals looming, programs help students reduce stress

See Students, Page 5

"Home" for the holiday

Mahendra Gupta, Ph.D., dean and the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil Professor of Accounting and Management at Olin Business School, welcomes the Lee family of South Korea — (from left) J. Hye Bae, Seyeon Lee and first-year MBA student Jong Han Lee — to the Olin Executive MBA Open House and more than 500 professors, students and families — a record number — gathered in the Knight Center Nov. 27 and gobbled up more than 250 pounds of turkey and all the traditional dishes from stuffing to pumpkin pie. It was the 14th time the Olin School had hosted such an event for its families, many of whom were experiencing their first American Thanksgiving. The George Warren Brown School of Social Work also held a dinner for its students, Nov. 23 in Brown Hall, and Dining Services hosted a traditional dinner on Thanksgiving Day for students who stayed on campus during the break.

Drug therapy for premature infants destroys brain cells in mice
Arts & Sciences names new chairs, directors

new department and pro-

Robert Levine, Ph.D, the John

Sherry joined the department in 2007 after serving as the Disting-

British archaeology and geo-

His fourth and latest book, "Against Intellectual Monopoly,"

His studies have led into the

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Pain, itch responses regulated separately

By Jon Dretske

Historically, scientists have argued that pain and itch are different responses to tissue damage, but School of Medicine researchers have determined that pain and itch are actually regulated by different genes.

At the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, the researchers reported they have successfully separated itch and pain in mice and have identified the genes responsible for treating both pain and itch.

The researchers are led by Zhou-Feng Chen, Ph.D., associate professor of anesthesiology, of psychiatry and of developmental biology, who is the first to identify an itch gene. The scientists published their findings in the journal Nature. Now, further experiments have demonstrated that pain signals are not affected when mice are bred without the itch gene or the pain gene.

The itch gene, called GRPR (gustducin activating peptide receptor), makes a receptor found in a very small population of nerve cells in the spinal cord. That region of the spinal cord controls pain and itch signals as well as temperature sensations from the skin.

When exposed to itchy stimuli, mice without the gene described less than their normal littermates.

"Two are major types of itching," said Chen, an investigator at WUSTL Pain Center. "There is a nominate-dependent hitching caused by bug or allergic reaction, while the majority of chronic, itch is enigmatic to antihistamine treatment."

Many patients with chronic pain receive opioid medications to control pain, such as morphine, to control their pain. One of the well-known side effects of that treatment is itch.

"Most scientists believed that the itching could not be separated from the drug's pain-killing effects," Chen said. "We hypothesized that GRPR may play an important role in the itch response, but not in the pain response."

So Chen's team went to the mice bred with and without GRPR and compared scar formation behaviors and pain-killing effects.

"We chose this very interesting area because it determines which drugs are effective for strong drugs for pain and itch," said Chen.

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Kemper presents ‘Some Like it Cool’ film series at the Tivoli

**Films**

**Thursday, Dec. 4**
7 p.m. *Jawsh, Island and Near Eastern Film Series*. “North by Northwest” Thursday, Dec. 11.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**
7 p.m. *Kemper Art Museum Film Festival*. Same line as Cool Film Series. “Fluid Without a Cure.” Tivoli Theatre, 6350 Delmar Blvd. 660-923-8565.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**

**Thursday, Dec. 11**
7 p.m. *Kemper Art Museum Film Festival*. Same line as Cool Film Series. “North by Northwest.” Tivoli Theatre, 6350 Delmar Blvd. 660-923-4523.

**Lectures**

**Thursday, Dec. 4**


5 p.m., *Strategic Information Management Under the Current Regulatory Environment."* Boeing Center for Technology, Information Science and Systems Engineering. (5 p.m. reception.) Bryan Hall, Rm. 305. 935-5565.

5:30 p.m., *Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series*. "Principles of Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy." Biegler, cell biology and metabolism, McKinley Ave. 362-5577.

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Students by day, rockers by night Members of The McDreamies, a band made up of students in the School of Medicine, perform during the graduate school "Battle of the Bands" Nov. 29 at The Gramophone in St. Louis. Students from the School of Law had two bands in the competition, De Facto and The Restatement, and a group from the Olin Business School, Phat Cat McGhee and the Warren Buffitts, also performed at the inaugural event. The competition was close, but The McDreamies were named the winning band after a well-timed stage dive by one of its members.

Sports

Women's hoops wins McWilliams Classic
Senior Jill Brandt scored a career-high 29 points to lead the No. 6 women's basketball team to an 83-54 win over Carthage College at the WU Field House Nov. 29, capturing the Eighth Annual McWilliams Classic championship.

Her performance, Brandt was named the McWilliams Classic MVP. Joining Brandt on the all-tournament team was senior forward Jaime McFarlin and sophomore forward Kathryn Bergen. Senior Shanna-Lei Dacanay broke the McWilliams Classic single-game and tournament assist records with a career-high 10 assists against Carthage.

Junior Zach Kelly was named to the all-tournament team along with Brandt. The women's basketball team returns to action Friday, Dec. 5, when it takes on Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash.

Men's basketball wins fifth straight on road
Junior Austin Thompson scored a game-high 20 points and was named the tournament MVP as the No. 1-ranked Bears overcame a seven-point halftime deficit to post a 70-68 victory over Anderson University in the championship game of the Anderson Invitational Nov. 29 in Anderson, Ind.

Junior Zach Kelly was named to the all-tournament team along with Thompson as Kelly averaged 15.5 points and 7.0 rebounds per game.

WUSTL (5-0) hosts the 25th Annual Loyola Classic this weekend at the WU Field House. The Bears take on Hamilton College (3-0) Friday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. in the tournament opener and then host No. 18 Illinois Wesleyan University 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Cross country 12th at championship meet
The women's cross country team finished 12th at the 2008 NCAA Division III Championships held Nov. 21 in Hanover, Ind.

Sophomore Taryn Surtees was the top finisher for the Bears, placing 30th and completing the 6k course in 21:36.03. With her 50th-place finish, Surtees earned U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-America honors for the first time in her career.

The Bears tallied 371 points as a team, placing ahead of two other University Athletic Athletic Association competitors. Case Western Reserve (116th place) and Emory University (246th place) were also included in the competition.

Women's soccer falls in NCAA tournament
The women's soccer team ended its first season under head coach Forest Wiltenburg 1-2-1 when it lost to Wheaton College 3-0 Nov. 21 in the NCAA Division III Sectional Semifinal.

The Bears finished at 13-4-2 and won their third straight and sixth overall University Athletic Athletic Association title.

Swimming and diving at WU Invitational
The women's swim team placed first and the men's squad was second at the WU Thanksgiving Invitational held Nov. 22-23 at the Millstone Pool in St. Louis.

The WUSTL women won six total events at the meet, while the men won three, and the two squads combined to meet three NCAA provisional qualifying times.

Junior Alex Beyer grabbed two first-place finishes and set the NCAA "B" cut time in a pair of events. He won the 500-yard freestyle and was runner-up in the 1,650-yard freestyle. Senior Kelly Kono set the third NCAA provisional time, winning the 500-yard freestyle. Both teams return to action Saturday, Dec. 5, when they compete in the two-day Wheaton Invitational in Wheaton, Ill.

University College to host Preview Night Dec. 11

University College, the evening and summer program for Arts & Sciences, will host a Preview Night 7 p.m. Dec. 11 in Holmes Lounge in Ridgley Hall. Preview Night features speakers who will discuss class and program offerings, admissions requirements and financial aid:

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Therapy

Therapy is open to the public. A special break room will be available for University College to answer questions specifically geared toward WUSTL employees.

University College classes are free to full-time WUSTL employees with one year or greater length of service before the first day of classes. For more information about this benefit, visit hr.wustl.edu.

Separate announcements will be made regarding the Danforth Postdoctoral Fellowship, which includes all campuses other than the Medical Campus, the Medical Campus and the school of engineering.

These announcements will apply only to Washington University students, faculty and staff.

The media outlets that would air such an announcement are KTVI Channel 2, KMOV Channel 4, KSDK TV Channel 5, KSD TV Channel 5 and KMOV-AM (1190).

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should weather conditions create potentially hazardous travel conditions, Washington University will evaluate the situation and take into consideration the safety of the faculty, staff and students as well as the services that must be provided despite the inclement weather.

In the unlikely event that WUSTL alters the normal work and/or class schedule, an announcement will be posted on the WUSTL home page (wustl.edu), and a number of media outlets may also air an announcement.

In很多城市，气候是一个重要的因素，影响着人们的出行和活动。由于天气原因，大学可能调整课程和工作安排。例如，如果天气条件可能导致危险的旅行条件，华盛顿大学会评估情况，并根据安全因素考虑是否调整教职工、学生和员工的行程和服务。

At least one student at WUSTL said that the climate change could potentially impact their decision to attend the university. "It's smart for students to take into account the climate changes," said Kevin, a junior studying environmental science.

Climate change is a significant factor affecting the decision of some students to attend universities. Despite the inclement weather, the university will evaluate the situation and take into consideration the safety of the faculty, staff and students as well as the services that must be provided despite the inclement weather.
funding $3 million for seed research and construction of a new 100,000-square-foot facility to house the University’s Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering and I-CARES programs.

The new building — named Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Hall — will be completed in 2010. So far, the University’s total commitment to new facilities, new professorships and programmatic support for I-CARES exceeds $60 million.

"In this consortium dedicated to clean coal and clean aluminothermic technologies, we are forming an international partner- ship with energy companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, China, India, foundations and government organizations to foster increased efficiency, lower emissions and develop ways to address climate change," Wrightson said.

"From a University perspective, this is a win-win way to take coal — one of the nation’s most abun- dant energy resources — and put it to work for the public good. The University also will work to build public understanding of the energy options for the future. The Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization will place St. Louis as the center for clean coal research."

The University also will announce the establishment of the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization at a news conference Monday, Dec. 8, in Hong Kong through the McDonnell International Scholars Academy.

Twenty-four premier research universities from around the world are partnered with Washington University through the McDonnell Academy and are working together to address issues related to energy, environment and sustainability, and the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization will encourage collaborative research involving these schools and their corporate partners in China and India with energy and aluminum companies. Nobody is the global leader in clean coal solutions, advancing signature projects around the world charting a successful course to a cleaner and more secure energy world.
Introducing new faculty members

**John E. Bell, Ph.D., professor of economics, has received a one-year, $156,405 grant from the Social Science Research Council.**

**Jacqueline E. Poynton, Ph.D.,** assistant professor of marketing from the Stern School of Business, has received a one-year, $25,000 fellowship grant from the College of American Pathologists Foundation for research on the National Health Service.
James T. Stueber could be called the helmsman of the School of Medicine. On a campus of 5 million square feet, he makes sure that employees and patients have heating, cooling, lights and other necessities. He also makes sure the roots don’t leak, elevators function, and mechanical and fire alarm systems operate when necessary. And he and his staff ensure that tissue samples used in research stay at the right temperature and stored embryos in the IVF program remain viable.

Stueber, director of facilities engineering, does this by overseeing the work of 80 technicians, including plumbers, carpenters, electricians and heating and air-conditioning personnel.

"The last peel on the onion is to prove my life," he says. "Another big life-changing experience was having children."

Stueber has worked extremely hard to get where he is today. He topped floors to put himself through Ranken Technical College to become a construction electrician. After he landed his electrically job at Monsanto’s Carlsbad World Headquarters, he enrolled in night courses at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to work toward an electrical engineering degree. In 1992, he was named manager of utilities at the School of Medicine, and he began classes in the executive master’s of business administration program in the Ohio Business School in 2003.

Stueber met Lynette, his wife of 26 years, through his brother-in-law. She stayed home with their daughters and earned a teaching degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville the same year that Stueber earned his electrical engineering degree. She is a substitute teacher.

The two enjoy traveling and just finished a major addition to their home in Columbus, Ill.

Stueber also plays golf and tennis and likes to read. One of the highlights of his day is riding to work with his daughters, both undergraduate students at Washington University. Rachel is a junior majoring in foreign language in Arts & Sciences, and Meagan, a freshman, is undecided.

A favorite book of Stueber’s is ‘First Things First,’ which stresses balance and setting goals in all areas of your life. "If you don’t do this, says a person should put the big rocks in the light after cleaning rooms and setting thermostats in labs and offices back at night. As part of this layer, Stueber also developed a recommencing group that goes through all of the existing space at the medical school every four years to check that everything is working properly and to make any needed adjustments or changes.

"A lot of times, maintenance departments don’t do maintenance," he says. "They just put out fires. We have an extensive preventive maintenance program.

"The last peel on the onion is awareness — getting staff and employees to turn off their space heaters and close sashes on home hoods when not in use."

Stueber dreams of having a flat-screen monitor in every building lobby that shows how much energy is being used. "I'd love for them to be a board that lights up if someone didn’t turn their lights off or used a space heater," he says.

He and his staff also have played a large role in selecting everything from equipment to facilities. In 1993, Stueber helped品类 Stanford University, which is scheduled to open in December 2009. "There was a time when we didn’t get input, and getting handled a building was not ideal," Stueber says. "But to Walt’s credit, it, he has bought his department together, and there’s a true collaboration. It’s the little things, like putting a 15-foot mirror above a counter where the custo
dian can’t reach to clean it." Davis says Stueber has made a significant impact on facilities engineering.
"He has established a premier facilities engineering organization recognized by his peers and the facilities engineering community," says Walter W. Davis Jr., assistant vice chancellor and assistant dean for facilities operations. "Jim has transformed the operation of the power plant and the infrastructure systems supporting the medical school."