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Drug reduces prostate cancer diagnosis

**By CAROLINE ARBANAE**

A drug widely used to shrink an enlarged prostate gland has been shown to lower the risk of prostate cancer by 23 percent in men who have an increased risk of the disease, according to results of an international clinical trial presented April 27 at the American Urological Association's annual meeting in Chicago.

The four-year, phase III trial, known as REDUCE (Reduction of Prostate Endpoints in Clinical Events), is the first to look at chemoprevention for prostate cancer. They also had undergone biopsies that found no evidence of cancer within six months. The trial involved 8,200 men ages 50-75 who were randomly assigned to receive a placebo or a daily 0.5 mg dose of dutasteride (Avodart), manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline.

"Dutasteride has the potential to offer many thousands of men a way to reduce their risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer," said lead investigator Gerald Andriole, M.D., chief of urologic surgery. "This should ultimately mean more men will avoid treatment for prostate cancer and the cost and unwanted side effects associated with treatment."

Men in the study had elevated PSA levels (2.5-10 ng/ml), indicating they were at increased risk of prostate cancer. They also had undergone biopsies that found no evidence of cancer within six months.

They will receive their awards and give presentations of their work Nov. 10-12 in St. Louis.

Professor Proctor and Gordon are outstanding selections for this important honor," Wrighton said. "Both have made extraordinary contributions through their research, and each has excelled as a leader in their field and at Washington University. I am proud of their accomplishments and pleased to see their colleagues recognize them with these awards.

Proctor is recognized for her work in advancing the imple-
Missouri high-school science achievement tied to quality teachers, study finds

By Niel Schoenherr

While public officials might establish Missouri as an attractive destination for life-sciences companies, a study by researchers in the Department of Education in Arts & Sciences indicates that high-school science proficiency in the state, especially among high-minority and high-poverty populations, is greatly dependent on having a core group of certified teachers who are highly qualified to teach courses in their content area.

"School, Surgical Composition and Context Factors That Modulate "Proficiency," a high-grade Science Proficiency," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal Teachers College Record.

We wanted to examine the relationship between 10th-grade science proficiency and school context factors related to school quality, teachers and courses," said William E. Tate, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished Professor of Education and chair of the Department of Education.

"While we did find that some minority schools with higher dropout rates and higher rates of free-reduced lunch programs had worse science scores, it's interesting to note that lower science scores were associated with greater percentage increases in college-bound students, especially in minority public schools," Tate said.

"The study, focused on 2002 data from 623 Missouri high schools, found a 10th-grade class size of 25.2 was co-authored by Mark Hargrove, Ph.D., research statistician in the education department.

"The good news of this study is that having high-quality teachers — in this case, quality defined as certified — can positively influence achievement," Tate said. "While that has indicated in previous studies that this is the first to look at it in the context of science achievement in Missouri."

The implication, Tate said, is a need for education policy aimed at making sure students in high-poverty and high-minority schools have quality teachers if the state wants to give students the best chance to learn science.

"This is a Vhara matter, some people think we are selling our postsecondary sector and we arebye, and don't need to talk about it anymore," Tate said. "This study indicates that we still have students in some of these settings, and that we want to participate in emerging science education reform and to position the university to take its place among the truly great research universities of the nation."

Stanley named president of SUNY Brook

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., vice chancellor for research, has been named president of State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook effective July 1.

In his remarks, Chancellor Jack M. Peltz, Ph.D., said Stanley's experience as an accomplished leader, administrator, medical researcher and physician as well as his demonstrated ability to foster a culture of excellence "have earned me to have been selected as Stony Brook's new president." Stanley said. "In its short history, Stony Brook has accomplished remarkable things. I look forward to working with my new colleagues on the faculty, staff and students in a collective and strategic way to continue Stony Brook's remarkable trajectory of increased excellence and to position the university to take its place among the truly great research universi- ties of the nation.

Stanley, also professor of medicine and of molecular and cellular biology, came to the School of Medicine in 1983 as a fellow in endocrinol- ogies and has been a member of the faculty since 1987. He was appointed vice chancellor for research in 2006. He is also a principal investigator for internal medicine and infectious diseases at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and director of the Midwest Regional Center for Excellence for Biodiversity and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said that Stanley has made significant contributions to the University during his more than 25 years at WUSTL. "During Sam Stanley's tenure, we have benefited enormously from his leadership and research," Wrighton said. "He is a distin- guished member of the faculty of the School of Medicine and an accomplished physician." Stanley has substantially advanced the research at the University. "His research and $548 million in external funding is the result of graduate, undergraduate and faculty research."

"We at Washington University in St. Louis will miss Dr. Stanley; yet we are confident that he and his new university home will respond in the exciting opportunity for him at Stony Brook," Wrighton said.

Trustees hear report on endowed investments

At its spring meeting, the Board of Trustees received the report on the endowed investments and showed appreciation to the WUSTL fiscal team. Reports also were delivered by the undergraduate and graduate student treasurers.

In his remarks, the Board of Trustees chair, Dr. Mark S. Wrighton, noted that the board had received a number of extraordinary accomplishments over the past few months, including a new partnership between the University and the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The new program will involve joint programs, including in- ternships, lectures and other educational activities as well as an agreement under which the Olin Business program will involve joint programs, including in-

WUSTL works to eliminate motor vehicle idling on Danforth Campus

The Washington University Police Department and Park- ing and Transportation Services are partnering to increase awareness about the importance of eliminating vehicle idling on the Danforth Campus.

"Motor vehicle idling endangers public health, pollutes the envi- ronment and wastes both fuel and money," said Mark Hargrove, Ph.D., WUSTL's chief environmental officer. "In this summer, WUSTL will install "No Idling" signs at loading docks, bus stops and other key locations on campus.

"This is the first to look at it in the context of science achievement in Missouri."

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New tool calculates risk of bleeding in heart attack patients

BY GLENN EERIEON

W

ith eight basic medical facts in hand, doctors can now estimate the risk of bleeding in patients who have had a heart attack.

Using medical variables, researchers at the School of Medi-
cine, Duke University and collaborating institutions have created a new method to estimate bleeding risk and help doctors choose the best treatment for heart attack patients.

"Until now, there hasn't been a simple tool available to the gen-
eral population that can predict the risk of bleeding before patients are treated for heart attack," said co-author Brian Bach, M.D., associate professor of medicine and an author of the study. "Other methods for estimating risk either were derived from a low-bleeding-risk population or used variables that aren't available until after treatment is begun."

The assessment is described in a study in the April 1 issue of Circulation.

Doctors must track heart attacks with medications and procedures intended to prevent ischemic complications caused by lack of oxygen to the heart or by treatment - anticoagulant drugs and catheter-based angioplasty and stenting - along with the risk that bleeding could occur. Both treatment modalities are associated with the risk of bleeding, which can be deadly.

"Able methods for estimating risk either were derived from a low-bleeding-risk population or used variables that aren't available until after treatment is begun," said co-author Brian Bach, M.D., associate professor of medicine and an author of the study. "Other methods for estimating risk either were derived from a low-bleeding-risk population or used variables that aren't available until after treatment is begun."

The CRUSADE ana-
sy证 identified eight factors that could predict the odds that a heart attack patient might suffer bleeding.

The factors are gender, race, age, total cholesterol (the concentration of red cells in the blood), creatinine clearance (a measure of kidney function), diabetes, peripheral vascular dis-

The bleeding score calculation assigns points to each factor so that the total score coincides with risk of bleeding evidenced in the CRUSADE cases.

The scale assigns possible scores to five categories from a very low to a very high risk of bleeding.

"In the future, we're going to use this score to help guide care and treatment decisions for clinicians caring for heart attack patients, but the impact of its use on outcomes will need to be tested in clinical trials," Bach said. Potentially, the score would require only variables that can be obtained up front. It is a practical tool that can be used in any hospital setting.

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Membranes and Molecules: Physical Activity and Weight Control

School of Medicine. Co-sponsored by: Department of Neurobiology, Neurology, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences, and the Division of Physical Therapy.

And More

Saturday, May 9
1:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Abdulah Meads at the Barnard Health and Cancer Information Center, 4950 Children’s Place, St. Louis, 454-6006.

Wednesday, May 13
8 a.m. Black Student Alliance Commencement Celebration, Graham Chapel. Reception immediately following: Tom Blaisdell, Barnard University.

Laura Oliver

Monday, May 8
1:30 p.m. Center for New Institutional Developments presents “Justice and the American Metropolis.” Barbara Wakimoto, professor of history and cultural studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Library, 4th Floor, 1215 Granductive sculpture by Amelia Jones explores the artist and society — will begin at 5 p.m. in Steinberg Auditorium, located immediately adjacent to the museum. The exhibition will close on Saturday, May 9, at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 15
4:30 p.m. Freedom From Smoking Class. "Smoking Free." (Also at 5:30 p.m. May 19.) Center for Advanced Medicine, 4950 Children’s Place. 454-6006.

University Events

Friday, May 15
8 a.m. Damon School of Orthopaedic Surgery presents “Physical Activity and Weight Control.” Damon School of Orthopaedic Surgery, 4950 Children’s Place, St. Louis, 454-6006.

Monday, May 18
8:30 a.m. Commencement exercises in Reitz Union, Coughlin Alumni Center. Reception immediately following: James A. Steinberg, senior associate provost, and the Robertson-Cole Lecture Series, Department of Social Studies and the Political Theory Research Group. Women’s Big Red.

Monday, May 11
4:45 p.m. Center for New Institutional Developments presents "Winning Strategies." (Also at 5:30 p.m. May 7.) Center for Advanced Medicine, 4950 Children’s Place. 454-6006.

Monday, May 17
5:30 p.m. Center for New Institutional Developments presents "Physical Activity and Weight Control." Damon School of Orthopaedic Surgery, 4950 Children’s Place. 454-6006.

Wednesday, May 19
4:30 p.m. Freedom From Smoking Class. “Smoking Free.” (Also at 5:30 p.m. May 19.) Center for Advanced Medicine, 4950 Children’s Place. 454-6006.

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Thursday, May 14
8 a.m. College of Arts & Sciences Recognition Ceremony. Field House, Athletics-Communications Center.

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WUSTL math team wins state meet

On April 16 and 17, two Washington University teams took part in the 104th annual Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition, sponsored by the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America, at Truman State University.

One team, seniors Alexander Clontzger, Jeremy Degenport and Ethan Swenson, took first place in a field of 30 teams from 15 colleges and universities across the state.

The team, coached by Assistant Professor of Mathematics Jessica Hutchinson and sponsored by Ron Frentzel, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in Arts & Sciences, and Russell 
S. Woodhouse, Ph.D., the chair of the postdoctoral

Sports

Men's tennis to host NCAA early rounds

The No. 1-ranked and defending national champion men's tennis team will host the Central Region of the 2009 NCAA Division III Championship Friday.

On May 8, through Sunday, May 10, at the WUSTL Tennis Courts.

The Bears received an opening-round by and will face the winner of No. 4 seed Carthage College and No. 5 seed Westminster College in the semifinal Saturday, May 9, at 4 p.m. at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

The Bears entered the tournament with a record of 16-4, including a 6-3 win over No. 3 seed Grinnell College Friday, May 8, at Simpson College.

The Bears qualified for their 10th NCAA tournament and earned an automatic berth in men's tennis.

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By GERRY EVERDING

Farrell

Farrell Also active in many civic, cultural activities

Farrell established the David C. and Betty Farrell Distinguished Professorship in Medicine. They are Annual and Life Members of the Dunthorpe Circle.

In 2006, the couple received the Robert S. Brookings Awards, which are conferred by the Board of Trustees upon individuals for advancing the alliance between the University and the greater St. Louis community.

Farrell has also received an honorary doctorate from WUSTL as well as the 2nd Annual Award of Merit from the School of Medicine.

In addition to his commitment to Washington University, Farrell is active in civic and cultural organizations, including the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Saint Louis Symphony and the Boy Scouts of America Greater St. Louis Area Council.

His contributions for en- riching the quality of life for St. Louisans were acknowledged by the Regional Commerce and Growth Association with its Right Arm of St. Louis Award in 1997 and by The Mayor's Spirit of St. Louis Award in 1998.

The Search Award is a hand-wrought replica of the sculpture "The Search," designed by Heidi Sprek, professor emeritus of art.

The Eliot Society, founded in 1959, has more than 1,000 members providing unrestricted support for the University.

Conference to examine “Justice and the American Metropolis”

Putting questions of justice in the foreground of debates about urban and suburban politics is the goal of an academic conference Saturday morning and afternoon in The Women's Building Formal Lecture Hall.

Titled “Justice and the American Metropolis,” the confer- ence is designed to foster inter- action between political theorists who study justice and equality and empirical scholars who study historical, legal and political aspects of urban life.

Conference organizers Clarissa Hailey, Ph.D., associate professor of political science in Arts & Sciences, and Todd Swanson, Ph.D., an urbanist at the Uni- versity of Missouri-St. Louis, plan to publish papers presented at the meeting in an edited volume offering a best of normative and empirical work on power and justice in the contemporary city.

"The goal of both the confer- ence and the volume is to put questions of justice and fairness back in the foreground of urban policy debates in this country," Hayward said. "Forty years ago, social theorists and politicians led city planners debating urban neighborhoods, but in the mind of the politician and the planner, urban neighborhoods are a vision of a more just and egalitarian city. Today, our urban policy debates are driven almost exclu- sively by economic considerations, by concerns about effi- cient production and service provision, and competitiveness in an increasingly global econo- my. We want to help shift the terms of that debate.

Thirty renowned scholars will participate in this event, including Harvard philosopher Tommie Shelby, Ph.D., Princeton University's Stephen Macedo, Ph.D., Stanford legal scholar Richard Sander, J.D., Harvard urbanist Susan Farbstein, Ph.D., and Yale politi- cal scientist Douglas Rae, Ph.D.

The conference is cospon- sored by the Political Theory Research Group, the Center for New Institutional Social Science, the American Culture Studies Program, and the Department for the Study of Ethics and Human Values, all at Washington Uni- versity in St. Louis, and hosted by the Washington University Political Theory Research Group and the De Lee Collaborative Vision at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The sessions, which run from 9:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. May 9-10, are free and open to the public. For more information, including a schedule of topics and speakers, visit ecos.wusm.edu.

 Nicol Smith, professor emeritus of art.

In 2003, he and his wife, Betty, made a leadership gift to build the Nicol Smith Center, a 29,000-square-foot facility which time he was elected to emeritus status.

Farrell was also honored by the American Political Science Association when he was elected as the 1999-2000 annual meeting president, a position he held in 2003.
Students win grants for social change

By Neil Schoenheer

The Community Service Office has announced the winners of three Social Change Grants, awarded annually to students pursing innovative ideas that serve the common good in the spirit of social entrepreneurship. The grants have a total value of $22,000.

Sophomore David Fox and sophomore Jacob Siegel each received a $6,000 Stern Social Change Grant for programs they submitted as a consultant for peace and inner city peace, respectively. The Stern Social Change Grant was established in 2000 to provide undergraduates with the means to pursue creative and meaningful activities during the summer, city peace, respectively. "Pursuing innovative ideas that serve the common good in the spirit of social entrepreneurship is one of the most influential and mathematically profound papers written on quantum mechanics in the last 20 years," said Barry McCoy, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Physics at SUNY Stony Brook and winner of the Heineeman Prize for Mathematical Physics.

Drug

Drugs months to years to culminating in the trial. Therefore, these men either did not have prostate cancer or had a pathology report that possibly had microscopic tumors that were too small to be detected by the pre-surgical biopsy. The investigators performed 377 biopsies on the men two years after they enrolled in the study and again after four years. After two years, prostate cancer was found in 17.2 percent of the men who received finasteride, compared with 13.4 percent who took dutasteride. After four years, prostate cancer was diagnosed in another 11.8 percent of men who received a placebo and 8.1 percent who received dutasteride. To these men, the most likely explanation is that dutasteride, worked by shrinking tumors and/or slowing their growth, thereby making them less likely to be detected by a biopsy," Andriole said.

The reduction in prostate cancer risk was consistent across multiple geographic regions of the U.S. in the REDUCE - dutasteride worked as well in geographically diverse populations. Andriole said.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved dutasteride in 2002 for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). This condition causes frequent urination that is difficult or painful. The study was conducted because data collected as part of the FDA-approved process suggested that men with BPH who took dutasteride had fewer diagnoses of prostate cancer. The investigators found a significant increase in aggressive tumors among men who took dutasteride. This outcome was closely watched because an enzyme, -finasteride (proscar) - for the treatment of prostate enlargement found that while the drug lowered cancer risk, it was linked to more aggressive tumors, although a later analysis of the data suggested that may not be the case.

Over the course of the study, 6.8 percent of men in the placebo group and 6.7 percent of men in the dutasteride group were found to have aggressive, high-grade tumors. "We are very encouraged by these findings," said Andriole. "Clearly, the data show dutasteride did not lead to more high-grade tumors, even though they would have been easier to detect in the dutasteride-treated men due to their smaller prostates.

Prostate cancer and BPH both can raise PSA levels: Dutasteride blocks two forms of the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, which converts testosterone produced in the testes to dihydrotestosterone." In contrast, finasteride inhibits only one form of the enzyme. Dihydrotestosterone is known to be a potent stimulant of benign prostate growth and the development of prostate cancer. The REDUCE investigators also found that dutasteride sig- nificantly reduced episodes of urinary retention and the need for treatment to alleviate BPH in men taking the drug compared with those taking a placebo.

Prostate cancer is the second most deadly cancer in men after lung cancer. Andriole said, "It is responsible for more than 221,000 deaths annually.

The REDUCE trial was conducted in 259 sites in 42 countries. Glassberg and colleagues funded the study. Andriole is chairman of the REDUCE steering committee and a consultant for the company.
A choreographer, bank presi-
dent, investment banker and the
president of the United States'
largest brewer were among the
honorees at the Olin Business
School's 2009 Distinguished
Alumni Awards April 22 at the
Ritz-Carlton Clayton. More than
500 alumni, faculty and friends
attended, where winners of the
second annual Olin Award and Dean's
Medal were also named.

Dean's Medal

Mahendra R. Gupta, Ph.D.,
dean of the School of Business,
and Robert L. Virgil, Professor of
Accounting and Management,
presented the Dean's Medal to
Jerald L. Kent (BSBA '78, MBA
'79) at the Ritz-Carlton Clayton.
Mr. Kent was recognized for his
$3 million Olin scholarship program
that will significantly support 20
undergraduate students over the
next seven years. Mr. Kent's
commitment to scholarship has also
been reinforced by his work on the
Board of Visitors. His award of
Corporate Communications and is
president and CEO of Caesal III
LLC. Judy Kent is a community
volunteer and co-chairs a women's
clothing drive.

Distinguished

Alumni Awards

David C. Dorfman (BSBA
'77) is a successful entrepreneur
who founded his eponymous
dance company. Dorfman is a
Trustee and the Geraldine J. and
Robert L. Virgil Professor of
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Plax's work with teens goes from exam room to community

Katie Plax, M.D. (left), and Regina Whittington, director of Supporting Positive Opportunities for and with Teens (SPOT), discuss some of the resources the SPOT offers to clients. "Dr. Plax's presence at the center is a powerhouse of resources for youth accessing services," Whittington says. "She approaches medicine in a practical manner and empowers youth with knowledge and understanding. Her work is not confined to an exam room — she is actively engaging in the community and determining action that can be taken to promote and foster a healthier life."