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Transplant cures type 2 diabetic rats — without drugs

By MICHAEL C. PURDY

A n approach proven to cure a rat model of type 2 or juvenile-onset diabetes also works in a rat model of type 2 or adult-onset diabetes, according to School of Medicine researchers.

"Finding that we can cure type 2 dia betes in the same way is very significant be cause in humans, type 2 diabetes is almost 20 times more prevalent than type 1 dia betes," said senior author Marc R. Hammer man, M.D., the Chromalloy Professor of Renal Diseases in Medicine.

"There are about 200 million type 2 dia betes worldwide and the incidence is rap idly increasing." 

The treatment approach transplants precursors of the pancreas from embryonic pigs. In a previous study, Hammerman and co-developer Sharon A. Rogers, research in structor in medicine, showed that they could transplant the cells in a way that lets them grow into insulin-producing cells. This cured the rats' diabetes without the risky immune suppression drugs required to prevent rejection in other transplant-based treatments. The results appear online and will be published in Transplant Immunology.

Hammerman and Rogers are leaders in the emerging field of organogenesis, which focuses on growing organs from stem cells and other embryonic cell clusters known as organ primordia. Unlike embryonic stem cells, which can become virtually any cell type, primordia are locked into becoming cells of a particular organ.

Their approach for diabetes treatment uses pig pancreatic primordia. In previous research, they found that obtaining the primordia early in the pigs' development resulted in "invasive" or cancerous systems, eliminating the need for anti-rejection drugs.

In the new study, they transplanted the pig primordia into a strain of rat with a disorder that closely resembles human type 2 diabetes. The result was the same: the transplants cured the rats' diabetes without any immune suppression.

Hammerman notes that the new study shows the lack of immune rejection wasn't just an artifact from the strain of rats used for the first experiments.

"In addition, now we also know that this approach works for the much more common type 2 diabetes, something we couldn't predict based on our earlier research," Hammerman said.

One distinction between the two types of diabetes that made such a prediction difficult is the phenomenon known as insulin resistance. Levels of blood sugar are high in type 1 diabetes because insulin-producing pancreas cells have been destroyed. In contrast, blood sugar is high in type 2 diabetes in part because tissues become insensitive or resistant to insulin. The pancreas becomes irrevocably damaged in an effort to keep up with the resulting increase in insulin demand.

"The transplanted primordia not only appropriately regulated blood sugar in the type 2 diabetic rats, they also reduced insulin resistance," Hammerman said. "The rats are cured by pig insulin, which comes irreparably damaged in an effort to keep up with the resulting increase in insulin demand.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and a win-win situation," Hammerman said.

By TONY FITZPATRICK

Alfred V. Arvidson, Ph.D., professor in earth and planetary sciences — traveled in building a solid space science and planetary sciences program," Arvidson said.

They will have access to the Chang'e-1 data starting this spring. Our intent is to encourage data exchange both ways and help them set up a data system very similar to the NASA Planetary Data System (PDS), assist with archiving and train them also on basic science and physics of the moon.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and a win-win situation," Arvidson said.
Colangelo installation

Carmon Colangelo, dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, was formally installed as the Edmund Lee Professor for Community Collaboration in the Arts at a ceremony Sept. 19 in Ridgley Hall’s Home’s Lounge. Picture shown from left are Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, Colangelo, Lee, and Sam Fox.

At right, "Gray’s Anatomy" (2006), a large-scale collage and digital print from "Configured/Disfigured," an exhibition of Colangelo’s work on view through Oct. 7 at the Dunn Art Gallery, 3721 Washington Blvd.

With 15 solo shows in the past 10 years and two new shows opening later this fall, Colangelo has been going on, and Wrighton has looked to us for help to start something. "By being connected to Shandong," he said. "Four faculty positions in the St. Louis area. They met with Zhan in WUSTL’s Earth and Planetary Sciences Building. The president and his delegation visited the Mars Exploration Rover operations room, along with Wang’s laboratories. Wang then was invited to visit Shandong University in December 2005, where she gave several talks to teachers and students there about the Mars Exploration rovers. During this trip, Wang visited the Department of Space Sciences and Applied Physics (SSAP) on the Weihai campus. Because China was speeding up the lunar exploration project and Shandong hopes to join it, Wang suggested that the SSAP department develop a research direction for data analysis from planetary missions.

"Through contemporary interactions behind the story and highlight the idea was to show the story behind the different materials that were used in the making of the series," he said. "It is an opportunity to highlight the collection of different materials that we have at the University."}

Treatment

Transplanted cells seemed to produce insulin— from Page 1

from the transplants and can be measured in their circulation. The rate of insulin-producing cells in the pancreas are atrophied.

As a diabetes treatment for human patients, pig insulin works as well as the human form. However, administering either type of insulin via injection does not control blood sugar well enough to avoid severe complications.

In contrast, insulin-producing cells in transplants secrete insulin only in response to elevated blood sugar levels, so when the glucose levels are normal. Hammerman, who also showed that engrafted embryonic pig pancreatic tissue transferred from rats to mice is placed in a test tube releases pig diabetes within a minute of being exposed to high glucose levels. "The link between the glucose levels that are important for the function of the insulin-secreting cells," said Andy Cleddenen. "When the glucose levels are normal, the insulin-secreting cells do not secrete insulin. When the glucose levels are elevated, the insulin-secreting cells secrete insulin, which causes the blood sugar levels to return to normal."

"And how."

"By being connected to Shandong, we’re also connected to such places as the Chinese National Science and Technology Museum, which distributes digital data of the surface and interiors of the planets and their satellites. Arvidson and the PDS system. A program who will be here for several weeks and be accessible.

In March 2004, Arvidson is looking to us for help to start something. "They’re strong group in space sciences looking to us for help to start something. "At Shandong, Dr. Liang has been going on, and Wrighton has brought in the story behind the different materials that were used in the making of the series," he said. "It is an opportunity to highlight the collection of different materials that we have at the University."
Education, retraining reduce catheter-associated infections

By MICHAEL C. PERRY

A n education and retraining program that previously reduced bloodstream infections in intensive-care units (ICUs) at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Missouri Baptist Medical Center has been successfully exported to five other medical centers nationwide, School of Medicine clinicians reported in the July issue of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology.

Scientists found the program reduced serious bloodstream infections associated with central venous catheters, tubes frequently inserted into major veins in critical care patients, by 21 percent. Clinicians use the large tubes to administer drugs and fluids.

"Clinicians are often very busy, and there's only so much time they can spend reviewing the latest research," Warren said. "This was a great, if inventive, way to ensure that they have the right dressings in place to help prevent infections."

As an example of how research has improved methods for minimizing infection risk, Warren cited the choice between inserting catheters in the subclavian vein near the collarbone or in the femoral vein in the groin. "A fraction of patients will always have to get femoral catheters, but in cases where an open cut is critical, studies have shown that there's less risk of infection from catheters inserted into the subclavian vein," he said.

Other practices that reduce incidence of infection include inserting catheters with the sterile sheath on, which prevents bacteria from entering the lumen. Researchers also found signs of infection more quickly in catheters in the subclavian vein than in the femoral.

WashU researchers have also trained ICU staff to get catheters out as soon as possible after initial use, which can result in additional attributable hospital costs in excess of $10,000 per patient, said lead author David K. Warren, M.D., assistant professor of medicine.

"That can have significant economic impact." Warren and his colleagues' intervention began with updating ICU policies on catheter insertion and maintenance to align them with recent studies of the best ways to prevent catheter-associated infections. They also produced brief training modules, posters and other materials to minimize catheter-associated infections for ICU staff.

Researchers did not perform a cost-benefit analysis, but Warren emphasizes that the intervention is a very low-cost investment. "Basically, the biggest cost of this is the time nurses and physicians took to do the training modules, about 20 minutes," he notes. "Next is the review and updating of ICU policies and practices. Overall, it's a pretty inexpensive intervention considering the return that was produced."

Besides Barnes-Jewish Hospital, the-WUSTL program was operational in developing medical centers were Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Iowa Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and another.

Anthony L. Shapiro, M.D., and senior author David Ornitz, M.D., Ph.D., the Alumni Executive Officer of Merck & Co., Inc., will give a presentation at 4 p.m. Nov. 13 in Graham Chapel. This lecture will be simulcast in the King Center on the seventh floor of the Becker Library.

Lectures to be simulcast at School of Medicine

BY BETH MILLER

School of Medicine faculty and staff can take part in several lectures associated with the opening of the Danforth Campus without leaving the medical campus.

Three lectures are among the naming events with the theme "A Higher Sense of Purpose" and will be simulcast in School of Medicine facilities from various locations on the Danforth Campus, said Larry I. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

"Because these lectures are relevant to the School of Medicine community and are by individuals who have been instrumental in developing the school, we wanted to make it easy for those on the medical campus to take part." Shapiro said.

"There were about 200 people at the Danforth Foundation dedication, and about 150 at the following events. Everything was filled to capacity."

"Hedgehog signaling is a good potential target for growing new blood vessels in the heart," said first author David Lavine, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at WashU.

"The 21 percent infection reduction achieved at the other centers wasn't as dramatic as what we had here in St. Louis, but that points out the complexity of exporting these programs," Warren said. "And they do work — we estimated that these interventions prevented 135 serious bloodstream infections across all the ICUs and avoided more than 200 potentially renal days of hospitalization."

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Economic Insecurity • Finding Darwin’s Gift

Shepard to talk about her son’s legacy

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, Pride Alliance of Washington University will welcome Judy Shepard for a speech and presentation at 8 p.m. in Graham Chapel. Shepard is the mother of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old University of Wyoming student who was beaten to death in October 1998 because he was gay.

Her talk, “The Legacy of Matthew Shepard,” is free and open to the public, although priority seating will be given to WUSTL students.

Matthew’s murder resulted in a public outcry that brought hate crimes to the forefront of the national consciousness. Following the tragedy, Judy Shepard, along with her husband, Dennis, created the Matthew Shepard Foundation, which works to create gay and lesbian equality and to produce progressive hate crime legislation.

Shepard will speak about the ways in which individuals can improve safety in communities and the impact of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. She also is extremely active in Parade Days and raising funds for families and friends of lesbians and gays and gay students.

For more information about the Matthew Shepard Foundation, go online to matthewshepard.org. For more information on this event, contact Pride Alliance of Washington University.

Pride Alliance is a multi-focus gay, genderqueer, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer-questioning, intersex (also known as DSD, or disorder of sex differentiation), asexual, and non-binary organization open to all WUSTL students.

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Animal advocate, autism expert Grandin to speak
By Mary Kattens

Temple Grandin will present a lecture on "The Bounding Bunny" at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, in Graham Chapel as part of the Arizona State University 2006 student lecture series. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call 3-1, 3-8068.

Science. "Finding Dan's Goal" by Karen Miller, biology of food and animal science professor, is available from 935-1176. The paper reviews the science behind C. Primo's activities and contains more than 280 references to relevant research.

Grandin has appeared on TV programs such as ABC's "Primetime Live," The Today Show," "60 Minutes," "Larry King Live," "60 Minutes," and "20/20." She has also been featured in national publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and U.S. News & World Report. Discover and The New York Times have published books featuring her work.

Grandin is also known for being influential and effective for the animal advocate and for explaining to humans in a way that makes it easier for them to understand and think. Her 2006 book, "Animals in Translation: Using the Science of Autism and Twice Exceptional to Open the Animal's Mind," explores the nature of animals and how humans can be more effective in their interactions with them.

Science. "Emergence: Labeled Autism" provides an "inside narrative" of autism and shows the silence about the issue. Since she has become a role model for thousands.

Her groundbreaking 1986 book, "Emergence: Labeled Autism," provides an "inside narrative" of autism and breaks the silence about the issue. Since then, she has become a role model for thousands. 

Grandin's book chronicles the true story of how she overcame autism. Diagnosis: Grandin, a senior in English at Arizona State, graduated through grade school, but eventually became a successful writer and editor. She is now a successful writer and editor in her field. A Library Journal review of the book credited Grandin for giving rise to such insights about autism by nature generally comprehends such expressions and advocacy.

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One of only 10 NEH Summer Institutes for 2007, "Teaching Jazz" also has been designated part of "We the People," an NEH initiative designed to explore significant events and themes in American history and culture. Instructors will include some of the nation's leading scholars of jazz music and American culture, including WUSTL's Patrick Burke, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences. The curriculum will approach jazz from social, cultural, political, technical, aesthetic, and international perspectives, and participants will have numerous opportunities to attend live jazz concerts.

Registration, which is limited to about 30 applicants, is open to high school teachers from a variety of disciplines, including English, history, art, music, and to qualified music teachers such as high school librarians, media specialists, and music museum staff.

Further details will be announced in a forthcoming brochure with additional open positions in future issues of the Center for the Humanities' Reflections Letter and The Figure in the Carpet, both available online at endmuarts.wustl.edu with more information, call 935-5576.

The NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers are designed to present the best available scholarship on important humanities issues and works that impact the nation's schools.

Participating teachers compare and synthesize perspectives and materials for faculty with the aim of developing improved teaching materials for their classrooms.

"Teaching Jazz" is intended to re-imagine how popular culture can be early and often, said, "It is hoped that the Summer Institute will offer teachers new and engaging ways to teach popular music as a humanities subject."

WUSTL increases entry-level wage – from Page 1

Benefits

Currently, there are no cases of mumps at WUSTL. However, Student Health Services is recommending that students review their mumps immunization history to make certain that they have received two doses of MMR vaccine.

Mumps vaccine available on campus – from Page 1

A number of cases of mumps have been reported in the past few weeks at Washington University in St. Louis and in other Midwestern states. Currently, there are no cases of mumps at WUSTL. However, Student Health Services is recommending that students review their mumps immunization history to make certain that they have received two doses of MMR vaccine.

Benefits

WUSTL increases entry-level wage – from Page 1

entry-level wage established in 2005 and will be fully implemented by Feb. 1, 2007. In keeping with its commitment to improve access to affordable health care, WUSTL continues to help subsidize La Clinica, a community health clinic, for the costs associated with providing care for full-time basic service contract employees who don't participate in an employee health insurance program.

"Washington University is committed to competitive compensation and access to affordable health care for its employees and those of its basic service contractors," Klein said.

The University recognizes as a great work and could not resolve the issue it has with the dedication of University and contractor employees alike.

Earlier this year, WUSTL was named as one of the "Great Places to Work" in the St. Louis Business Journal.

"It's helping me in my own scholarly productivity and staying on my toes. These are really smart kids," Tili Torres said.

Road's book, One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All, during the Freshman Men Project Reading Program.

"We are inviting various members of the faculty and others affiliated with the University and the surrounding community to come talk to the students about documentaries that not only are noteworthy examples of the genre but treat a subject of national or international importance."

Things are really "cooking" over at Liggett/Koenig Residential College.

"We have several programs in the works," Torres said. "The first is 'Cuisines of the World.' With a group of 13 students we've selected a particular ethnic cuisine. We are going to research a full menu, go shopping for the ingredients in the ethnic community we are going to explore and then cook the meal together and talk about what the experience has been like in interacting with people from another culture."
Retirees honored with luncheon at Whitemeier House

BY ANDY CLENDENEN

I n 1965, golf legend Jack Nick- laus won his first Masters Tourna- ment. And — don’t laugh with more than $125,000 in win- nings. Arnold Palmer became golf’s all-time top money winner. Also in 1965, Donald Davis started working at Wash- ington University. Davis was one of 60 people who retired from the University in 2006; of those, 29 were at- tends a luncheon hosted by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton Sept. 14 at Whitemeier House stud- iing family and friends, more than 100 people attended the luncheon. With 42 years of service, Davis has the longest tenure of any re- tired department was hit particu- larly hard by retirement, as Zu- snee Winkler (41 years) and Ger- rard John (39 years). The remaining 31 retirees contributed a total of 1,309 years of service to the University.

In the profession, special recogni- tion is afforded to those attending the luncheon who have the greatest number of years of service with the University. In addition to Davis (50 years) and Winkler, Bill Smith (39 years) from information systems also rec- eived a basket of flowers.

All retirees were given walnut plaques, presented by: Larry Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor and dean of the School of Medicine; Robert E. Wittmer, Ph.D., dean of College of Arts & Sciences; Monique Brotman, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business and Stu- dents; and Stephen J. Storfer-Adams and Richard B. Wexler, Ph.D., deans of the School of Engineering & Applied Science and School of Arts & Sciences, respectively.

Midge Bailey (11 years); Pat Tuchler (20 years).

On May 20, 2004, he announced his retirement from the University.

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For the Record

Retirees honored with luncheon at Whitemeier House

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton stands with (from left) Donald Davis, Suzanne Winkler and Bill Smith at a retirement luncheon for those who retired from the University in 2006.

Bruce Backus, assistant vice chancellor for Environmental Education and Natural Resources, received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Environmental Protect- ion Agency. His work has been noted for his "outstanding contribution and commitment as chair of the College and Universities Sector Coordinating Committee (2003- 06) and to a sustainable future for colleges and universities."... Linda B. Cotton, Ph.D., pro- fessor of biostatistics in the Depart- ment of Biostatistics, is one of 48 wo- men nationwide elected to the class of 2006 in the American Academy of Applied Science. She was one of five winners of the 2006 Wrighton Award for Distinguished Service and was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the University. The award recognizes "outstanding contributions to the university and the community.

For the Record

James A. Reynolds, M.D., the Albert and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Medicine and director of the Center for Health Policy, has received a two-year grant of $53,375 from the Missouri Foundation for Health for a project titled "The Effects of Medical Necessity Regulations on Provider — Recipient — Meaning Coverage, Care and Health Status Changes."...
A passion for improving lives

Luis Zayas looks for the indicators of teen Latina suicides

By Cynthia Georges

Luis H. Zayas

"Family is key to my life and my work." Luis H. Zayas

Writer: Stephanie, a special education teacher
Children: Marissa, 24, works for a corporation in New York; Armando, 22, a recent Fordham grad looking to play tennis in fashion design and art; Luis-Michael, 19, a WUSTL sophomore; wife: a recent Fordham grad looking to ply her talent in fashion design and art; Marissa, 24, works for a large company in New York; Luis-Michael, 19, a WUSTL sophomore; wife: a recent Fordham grad looking to ply her talent in fashion design and art; and my sisters," Zayas says. "I saw what a strong family can do in helping me into the program. I thought St. Louis was a long way from home. He kept telling me, 'You're just a flight away.'

Path to helping profession

"The question of what makes families tick occurred to Zayas at an early age. Born in Canto, Puerto Rico, to parents reared in rural poverty, he and his family traveled to and from the neighborhood, and we faced dis- crimation and prejudice." Despite the odds, the Zayas family pulled together and never gave up. "Our tight-knit relationship and the way we managed the stress of moving a lot had a great impact on me." As a result, Zayas was twice as likely to attempt suicide as white and African-American teens, he says. "Why is this group at risk? Zayas and his research team are two years into a five-year study that they hope will provide answers.

"We know that the adolescent's struggle for identity often clashes with their deep regard for family, its traditions and beliefs," Zayas says. "We want to know what it is at that moment, when they ingest the pills or cut themselves with glass, that causes them to take action. Until we understand the cultural conflict, we will not be able to prevent this.

Given the nature of Zayas' work, it is no wonder that he says, "At Fordham, Zayas studied..."

The effects of globalization have never been more evident," Zayas says. "A research center de-..."

"In the mid- to late-1990s, reports on Latinas revealed that they were twice as likely to attempt suicide as white and..."

"What is unique about Professor Zayas'..."

"Despite increasing scholarship on Hispanics in the United States, we still don't know enough about their health needs and the social and economic development of their families and communities," Zayas says. "But he is about to change all that."

Under Zayas' direction, the Center for Latino Family Research will produce family-oriented re-..."