Rejection-free limb transplant is aim of reconstructive surgeon

BY GWIN ERICSON

Y ears ago, the idea of attaching a bone lesion onto a patient's body would have been the stuff of science fiction. But to date about two dozen people around the world have received hand transplants.

Thomas Tung, M.D., a WUSTL plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, contacted patients' own hands, but he has never performed a hand transplant.

Tung said he believes the health risks of immunosuppressive drugs are too high to warrant the surgery. He is investigating regimens that potentially could allow the body to accept, without rejection, the foreign tissue without the danger of complications. Regrowth of immunosuppression medication or the risk of tissue rejection.

"Once we figure this out, it's going to open up a new whole field of reconstructive surgery," said Tung, assistant professor of surgery. "It will allow surgeons to replace not just injured hands, but fingers, noses, ears, scalp and other specialized tissues anywhere on the body."

Tung said the goal is to develop a rational protocol, which uses proteins called angiogenesis blocking antibodies. With current treatment methods, all transplantation patients take medications that reduce the function of their immune system, so their bodies don't reject the foreign tissue. But long-term use of immunosuppressive medication raises the risk of infection and cancer because the weakened immune system is unable to ward off these threats. Furthermore, immunosuppressive medications eventually fail, and transplanted organs undergo rejection an average of 10 years after surgery.

"The holy grail of transplantation research is to find a way to produce permanent tolerance without the need for any immunosuppressive medication," Tung said.

Tung's work in limb transplantation in many ways parallels research being conducted in organ transplantation. But limb transplantation entails different challenges because it involves several kinds of tissue, skin, muscle, tendons, etc. Each of these elicits a different degree of rejection compared with the recipient.

"It's not entirely predictable that something that is successful in organ transplantation will have the same effect on a limb transplant," Tung said.

In a recently published research, Tung demonstrated the effectiveness of immunosuppression-blocking therapy, which is designed to induce tolerance to a limb transplant hindlimb not to block, but to globally suppress the immune system. The mice received an antibody that blocked the action of certain molecules important for the immune system to attack foreign tissue. Tung said this strategy inactivated the blockade, blocks the immune response to only the donor tissue.

The immune system can still react to infections or cancer. In addition to the immunosuppression blockade, mice received donor tissue either as an infusion of simply as the marrow present in the bone of the donor hindlimb supplied research.

NSF funds biology teaching program

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

WUSTL has received a $3.88 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund an institute leading to a master's degree — at no cost — for St. Louis area high school biology teachers.

"WUSTL developed the 'Life Sciences for a Global Community' institute, which mixes life sciences research and content with educational research and methods," said Tung, assistant professor of surgery. "The high school teachers will learn new lab techniques for inspiring the best and the brightest, as well as engaging students with other interests."

Barbara A. Schaal, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor in Biology, is principal investigator and Victoria May, outreach director in biology, is co-principal investigator.

"The role that high school biology teachers play is critical in fostering interest in the life sciences," said Schaal, who also is vice president of the National Academy of Sciences, the first woman to hold that office.

"They are essential in reaching students who will go on to careers in medicine, health, ecology and the environment and in sustainable agriculture, but they also very well might be the last person to present concepts to those who pursue other interests. Thus, it's critical for us to enable biology teachers to do the best job they can reaching as many as possible."

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See Transplant, Page 2

The Office of Human Resources has announced several new additions and enhancements to the benefits program for eligible faculty and staff that will be effective Jan. 1.

These changes are a high-deductible FSA health plan with Blue Cross (HDHP); a biennial additions and enhancements to the benefits program for eligible faculty and staff that will be effective Jan. 1.

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Trustees discuss strategic plans

The University's Board of Trustees met Friday to discuss strategic planning. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said.

Three topics were considered: societal challenges that the University should address in the future, University constituencies and how well they are being served and under-enrolled student issues.

Following the business meeting, the trustees organized themselves into three groups to discuss these issues, which were developed by the trustee steering committee chaired by John S. McDonnell, retired chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas Corp. The strategic planning initiative will continue during the rest of the academic year.

In his report to the trustees, Wrighton first reviewed the success of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

Approximately one-third of the students from the following committees:—

The Danforth Lecture Series, with its ongoing theme of "Higher Sense of Purpose," will continue Oct. 16 with a presentation by "Jack" Danforth, former senator and founder of Danforth Foundation, on "Faith and Politics," and Nov. 13 with P. Roy Vagelos, M.D., former chairman of AstraZeneca, on support of "Peace and Politics."

Wrighton noted that the free MetroLink service to the Danforth Campus opened Sept. 17, 2006, with its overarching theme of "A History of Innovation in St. Louis: States and 20 countries. The class of 2010 is the most academically talented student group in the University's history, with 22.2 percent of the students in the top 10 percent of their high schools.

"Approximately one-third of the students in the class are international students who hail from 49 states, 150 countries, and 20 states.

The class is divided equally between men and women.

Wrighton also reported that the first 17 students to enroll in the McDonnell International Scholars Academy were welcomed to campus by members of various University constituencies. He noted that 12 corporators were introduced.

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\[ \text{Transplant} \]

Therapies extend limb tolerance time — from Page 1

ted that donor bone marrow could help induce transplant tolerance, and Tung found that the small amount of bone marrow with the least hindlimbs was effective as a large infusion of bone marrow cells given intravenously. While the combination of blockade/bone marrow therapy did not result in permanent remission of the transplanted hindlimb, it greatly extended the time before the recipients rejected the new limb.

In some sets of experiments, mice given a combination blockade/therapy rejected their new limbs after about 10 days, whereas the muscles and bone of the transplanted limb in blockade-treated mice survived an average of 222 days.

"Research into combination blockade is relatively new," Tung said. "And just over the past few years, a half dozen new combination pathways have been recognized. Researchers have found that when you combine several antibodies to block several pathological pathways at once, it may increase the effectiveness of the therapy. That's a big step toward tolerance of transplanted tissue."

WUSTL encouraged to participate in Metro study

Some 17,000 WUSTL students, faculty and staff have signed up for a free universal pass for access to the St. Louis region's public transportation system. A WUSTL card allows riders to purchase the most popular ticket. The free MetroLink service to the Danforth Campus opened Sept. 17, 2006, with its overarching theme of "A History of Innovation in St. Louis: States and 20 countries. The class of 2010 is the most academically talented student group in the University's history, with 22.2 percent of the students in the top 10 percent of their high schools.

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detailed description regarding every color of the application process and the atti-
titude that is expected by medical school professors. There are also question-and-answer sessions with residents from eight special-
ties who discuss the pros and cons of their specialties, the training experience, and the lifestyle both during and after residency.

Vikram Sasi, a senior pre-med student who comes from a family of physicians, said at first, Polites’ requirements for the class seemed stringent.

“In the beginning, Dr. Polites installed in everyone’s minds that when you are shadowing, you have to behave like an actual res-
dent,” he said. “I let us know that if we were late (to rounds while in medical school), we’d be castigated in front of everyone.”

Polites said he tries to drive home is that being an excellent physician requires more than just a good memory and test-taking skills. “It requires hu-
mor, a commitment to continu-
ing education and a degree of self-
lessness that is found in few, if any, other professions,” he said.

The class is growing by leaps and bounds, perhaps the reward of mouth of students who have already taken, and are willing to devote to Polites. The full class has 85 students enrolled.

Pre-med students in the preparatory program, shows Ian English (left) and Vikram Sasi, both pre-med students, a head CT scan demon-
strating a brain injury and discusses the severity of the injury and the necessary treatment during a shadowing session for the Med Prep Program.

"I think it was the best thing to help me make the decision to go into medicine," said English. “You really can’t understand if you’ll like medicine from a
chemistry class. This class defini-
tively helped me understand that this is something I want to do.”

English described Polites as a Renaissance man, saying he’s a “little about everything,” he said. “As an undergrad, the experi-
ence is designed to help students don’t work with pa-
ients, the experience is designed to give them a behind-the-scenes look at how medical students and residents are trained at a major teaching hospital.

Polites said it’s to give the students ex-
posure to the lifestyle and to see
the thought process we use in treating both routine medical problems and life-threatening conditions. The students come

into every room and see every-
thing do with the brain. They all take with them a differ-
ent perspective.”

Sasi said although he had al-
ready decided to go into medi-
cine, the class enhanced his per-
spective on the realities of being a physician.

“As an undergrad, the experi-
ence was mind-blowing,” Sasi
said. “To be able to go to Barnes-
Jewish Hospital as part of BJC De-
partment, a Level 1 trauma cen-
tra, as an undergraduate student
and swipe in like any other phys-
ician and watch medicine hap-
pening right in front of you — it’s exhilarating.”

Dr. Jack (left) provides students in the preparatory program with an introduction of what it’s like to be a physician.

Brain’s visual area may help scientists understand how behavior is organized

Brain region that focuses on vision also receives sig-
als that may help configure the operation of the brain. School of Medicine neurosci-
ents reported.

If the brain is thought of as an array, the new signals may give scientists a unique opportu-
nity to trace how messages from the high command reach all the way down to individual soldiers in a particular platoon and affect their activities.

Because the brain with the information it uses to visually distin-
guish one object from another, there are likely to be more details about how control signals work at the neuronal level.

What is exciting about this finding is the potential it pres-
ts for understanding how control signals work at the neuronal level.

"As present, most ideas about how the visual system work are based on theoretical models that seem plausible but have no firm, experi-
mental support. That is problematic because nature often sur-
prizes us. It certainly did in this case."
University Events

William Jay Smith to host two events Oct. 17, 18
Acclaimed poet to read from and speak on "My Friend, Tom: Tennessee Williams in St. Louis"

William Jay Smith, a WUSTL alum, and former poet consultant to the White House, will speak on "My Friend, Tom: Tennessee Williams in St. Louis" — recounting his time as a classmate of the great playwright and fellow WUSTL alum — at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, in Olin Library Rotunda. A reception immediately will follow.

Smith will also speak on "Finding his work from his work at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, in

Exhibits


Exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden shows the flowers of St. Louis.

Wednesday, Oct. 25


Lilly Library: Write to the Editor. Through Oct. 27. (Presented by Lilly Lib. and Campus Ctr.) Stoneman Cancer Center. West End Blvd. 993-8900.

Film

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Exhibits

Concert to benefit Gulf Coast

Rhythms for Rebuilding, an annual benefit concert for the Gulf Coast rebuilding, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, in Graham Chapel.

All proceeds will benefit Community Ground, a New Orleans organization working to rebuild minority and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Organizers say the benefit concert is a unique opportunity to see all the WUSTL a cappella groups performing together for the very first time, as well as being a great community service and social justice–themed event.

Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and $5 for students. Students, 85 for adults and are on sale in Mallinckrodt Student Center from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and at Wustl Student Center from 5-7 p.m. Tickets also will be available at the door.

Featured groups are: After the Storm; A Cappella America; Blackout; Black Voices; Global Connect; Note to Note; Nudes; The Persuasion; Rising Star; and Stereotypes.

The concert is sponsored by Project SOUL, the Office of Community Service and the WUSTL a cappella community.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

4 p.m. Biology and Biomedical Sciences Lecture Series. "Freshmen UNCarded: An Introduction to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus." John A. McArthur, guest of medicine, Cardiologist. Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Neugebauer, Room 202-1, 935-4472.


Wednesday, Oct. 25

Fossil remains show the merging of Neandertals, modern humans

BY NEIL SCHODHOLM

The early modern human fossils from the Ponsac Moulié (Cave of the Old Woman), Romania, which were discovered in 1957, have poorly dated and largely ignored. This lack of information has impaired our understanding of human evolution. Many researchers from the Anthropologi- cal and Archaeological Institutes in Bucharest, Romania, and from WUSTL have been able to date this site to 270,000 years ago. The fossils prove that a strict population history of Neandertals did not happen.

"What these fossils show is that the early modern humans had a mosaic of distinctly modern human character and other characteristics which allows us to suggest some combination of modern humans dispersing into Europe and interacting with and absorbing the Neandertal popula-
tion. The situation was more complex than many thought," said the Mary Tileston Hemenway Professor of Anatomy and Anthropology in Arts and Sciences.

"These fossils have the potential to shed light on several issues regarding only modern human fossils."

The team's research will appear online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The human remains from the Ponsac Moulié present a basically modern human-derived anatomy, which is evident in discrete traits and metric aspects throughout the sample. It therefore joins the sample of human remains from sites of Ponsac cu Ciste and Ponsac Clodovin in southeast-
eastern Europe, Molda in Central Europe, and Braseniapsea, the "Quina Aral and Lin Roti in western Eu-
pesa in the Fossils of the earliest modern humans in Europe.

Yet, as with many of these early Upper Paleolithic modern humans, the Mousor specimens exhibit a number of archaic and Neandertal features. These data reinforce the mosaic nature of the Neandertal lineage and Europe and the complex dynamics of human reproductive patterns when modern humans moved westward across Europe.

School Curriculum reflects evolving mediums

Also include 25 workshops, re-
search studios to accommodate sound and video production and tech-
iques, the latter assembled by applica-
tion and design. Subsequent work-
shops are often disconnected from the digital in the studio and the lineages and continuities of their mediums. As Bulawsky explained: "Art history stu-
dents are often disconnected from the actual object, its maker and making. This course allows both to see the bigger pic-
ture. So they're handling it with amaz-
ing dexterity and creativity."

"Amazing dexterity" with Art students often find a dis-
connection between their work in the studio and the lineages and continuities of their mediums. Bulawsky said: "Art history stu-
dents are often disconnected from the actual object, its maker and making. This course allows both to see the bigger pic-
ture. So they're handling it with amaz-
ing dexterity and creativity."

In conjunction with the class, Bulawsky and Childs have planned an exhibition for the Kemper Art Museum's Teaching Gallery. "Pressing Issues: The Cultural Agency of Prints" opens Oct. 25 and includes about 30 works on paper. Engravings and woodcuts in this selection are often disconnected from the studio, but also about the relationship of technological innovation to printmaking," she explained. "It's an evolving and dynamic field.

Because employees must evolve Nov. 30

Due to the introduction of new plans, savings accounts and plan features — and the importance of making the best decisions for you and your employees and their families — there will be 36 employee informa-
tional meetings on the total open enrollment and four em-
ployee information meetings on the Health Savings Account (HSA) only.

The schedule will be included in the open enroll-
ment brochure as an insert and may be found on the human resources Web site starting Oct. 16, at hrs.wustl.edu.

"Because the open enrollment period is the only time during the year that employees may enroll in the flexible spending plans, the HSA and the RMDA, we strongly encourage them to read their brochure, review the helpful information on our Web site, attend one of the em-
ployee meetings and return the completed paperwork before the Nov. 30 deadline," said Thomas W. Laumann, director of benefits in the Office of Human Resources.

The scheduled one-hour meetings during the first week of open enrollment are as fol-

Welcome home Sophomore Scott Fairclough (right) shares a laugh with alumnus Nathan Dardick while freshen Jean-Claude Foyer books on during an Oct. 4 dessert reception for all residents of

Nathan Dardick House in the South 40. It was the first time Dardick had met many of the students living in the recently named Nathan Dardick House, which is located at the intersection of

Bend Boulevard and Shepley Drive. Along with Nemeyer House, it makes up the Wayman Crow Residential College.
Instituting new faculty members at the University

All new faculty members at the University. Others will be introduced at a later date.

Patrick L. Kohl, Ph.D., joins the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine. He earned a medical degree from Stanford Medical College, Madrid, Spain, and completed a psychiatric residency at the Karolinska Medical School in Stockholm, Sweden. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1987. His research focuses on psychiatric illness, particularly in the areas of schizophrenia and adolescent development. His work has been published in multiple journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Archives of General Psychiatry.

Ramesh Raghavan, M.D., Ph.D., serves as chair of the Department of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine. He received his M.D. from the University of Rochester in 1994 and completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1997. He received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997. His research focuses on the development of cognitive and emotional functioning in children and adolescents, particularly in the areas of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorder.

Maggie Gabel, Ph.D., joins the Department of Political Science in the School of International and Public Affairs. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Rochester in 2004 and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley in 2005. Her research focuses on the role of institutions in shaping political outcomes, particularly in the areas of health care and environmental policy.

Melanie Springler joins the Department of Political Science as assistant professor. She earned her Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University in 2006. She specializes in international political economy and quantitative methods. Her teaching and research interests include voting and elections, political and economic policy making, and cooperative institutions.

Robert Walker, Ph.D., joins the Department of Political Science and the Center for International Studies as assistant professor of political science in the School of International and Public Affairs. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005. His research focuses on international political economy, particularly in the areas of resource extraction and trade.

For the Record

Notables

Andrew B. Newman, a senior mathematics student at the University of Rochester, is one of 18 undergraduate students selected nationwide by NASA astronauts to receive a $9,000 stipend for their work in support of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF). The ASF was founded by the late space shuttle astronaut William P. Crippen in 1987. Newman was selected after a rigorous selection process that included an interview with the astronauts. His research focuses on space mission planning and the development of mathematical models for predicting spacecraft trajectories.

Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health and Adolescent Well-being. Her work is focused on the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being, which is a national longitudinal survey of children and adolescents in the United States. Her research focuses on the development of statistical models for predicting the future outcomes of children and adolescents, particularly in the areas of mental health and well-being.

Ph.D., joins the Department of Political Science in the School of International and Public Affairs. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Rochester in 1994. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley in 1997. His research focuses on the role of institutions in shaping political outcomes, particularly in the areas of health care and environmental policy.

Anne Cross, M.D., professor of neurology, has received a one-year, $110,000 grant from the University of Michigan/Michigan State University Cancer Center to develop a new method for diagnosing and treating brain tumors.

Arthur R. Gabel, M.D., professor of medicine, has received a one-year, $88,000 grant from the Longer Life Foundation to develop a new method for diagnosing and treating brain tumors.

UHS, the University of California, San Francisco, has received a one-year, $28,770 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to develop a new method for diagnosing and treating brain tumors.

Raghavan previes in the World Society for the Study of European Integration, the American Political Science Association, and the American Society for Political Economy. His research focuses on the role of institutions in shaping political outcomes, particularly in the areas of health care and environmental policy.

Campus Watch

Flower power At its annual meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in June 2006, the Society for Economic Botany honored its 2005-06 President, Edward W. Knapp, Ph.D., for "recognition of outstanding achievement, research and service in the field of economic botany." The award was two years in the making, as the society's executive committee deliberated over the topic of economic botany. The society's executive committee deliberated over the topic of economic botany. The society's executive committee deliberated over the topic of economic botany. The society's executive committee deliberated over the topic of economic botany. The society's executive committee deliberated over the topic of economic botany. The society's executive committee deliberated over the topic of economic botany.

Obituary

Ronald Steffen, who retired from the Department of Anesthesiology at the School of Medicine in 1994, died on Oct. 6, 2006, at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Mo., of complications following a recent heart attack. He was 90.

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It’s very difficult to see another country from St. Louis. Even if you stood on top of the Arch and looked around, you’d still see more United States. For Jim Little, St. Louis’ landed localloc makes him all the more pleased with the work he has done to establish the University’s presence in Shanghai, China. “I think it’s been one of the best things the school has ever done,” says Little, Ph.D., professor of finance and economics at the Olin School of Business. “And I don’t mean to be insulting to St. Louis, but it’s all the more impressive because we’re here in the middle of the country. Running the Executive M.B.A. program in China is something you’d expect from a West Coast school — a place a little closer to China.”

Little, who has been at the University since 1971, said it was almost accidental that he ended up developing Olin’s E.M.B.A.-Shanghai program. In 1984, he had been invited to teach a program to senior Chinese managers about strategy. After 10 weeks in the country, Little was hooked. “It was an extraordinary time to be there because it was still fairly soon after Mao’s reign,” Little says. “Even though China was starting to open up, it was still going very slowly. The government was re- similar to go full-bore on any capitalist ventures. Western companies started to go to China, but they were running around with very little effect. I would say that everything really established there yet. And I became intrigued because it was one of those things where I never expected it in my life to be standing on the Great Wall of China, and there I was doing it.”

“I would spend a month-and-a-half at a time in London. So, of course I had to learn all about London as well. Once I started there, there’s just more I want to know,” Little says.

He ended up applying his growing understanding about foreign countries to his work as an economist. After all, he said, international economics is about economic activities between countries. But international business is a different beast.

“If you think about international business, you really have to start digging in at the institutional level — not just formal institutions like government and universities, but also things like property rights and national culture,” Little says. “It starts taking you very far from what you’ve started out to do. International business is much dirtier and fuzzier than international economics.”

Little’s excursions into the global marketplace may seem a far cry from his academic interests since he moved to Missouri. The commission existed to oversee the rehabilitation of The Loop, which had been specially zoned redevelopment. Little says it is gratifying to see how far The Loop has progressed. It was really Joe Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill, who deserved the credit,” Little says. “All we did was say, ‘You go, Joe.’ And he did just that.”

Little’s involvement with University of Missouri- St. Louis and the rehabilitation of The Loop has had a very strong commitment to public planning, but not every- one was on the same page. “Some of them came to my office to ask questions. It was really fun to watch their faces as they figured it out. I could see them thinking, ‘Oh, I can figure this out for myself now,’ and it’s that whole interactive part of teaching that is really fun.”

“Jim spends a huge amount of time with the students,” says Pam Wiese, senior administrator for strategic initiatives. “He steps in contact with them from the time they arrive on campus and long into the future when they are alumni. He really uses his knowledge of the students to do what he can to help them personally and professionally.”

In describing Little, Wiese refers to him as “thoughtful,” “amazing.” She doesn’t mean to gush. Wiese explains, but she is one of Little’s biggest fans — which is saying a lot considering his long tenure.

For someone who has so many friendships, he’s almost shy,” Wiese says. “We know each other for a long time. The other day I gave him a hug when I began to talk about anything really personal, like his daughter, Elizabeth. ‘He’s an incredibly thoughtful listener, very supportive. He really processes what you tell him and what he observes, and then he gives reasoned advice.”

Little acknowledges that spending time with students brings him tremendous satisfac- tion. It sounds cheery, he said, but teaching is downright fun.

“I am teaching the first undergraduate course I’ve taught in a long time. The other day I gave them their first problem set,” he says. “Some of them came to my office to ask questions. It was really fun to watch their faces as they figured it out. I could see them thinking, ‘Oh, I can figure this out for myself now,’ and it’s that whole interactive part of teaching that is really fun.”

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