Smoking hampers healing of ligaments after surgery

Jonathan M. Chase, Ph.D. (left), and Ruth Poland, senior in the Environmental Studies Program in Arts & Sciences, examine a spotted salamander larva in one of the Tyson Research Center ponds. Chase recently was named Tyson's third director since 1970.

Genetic finding sheds light on blood vessel breakdown

"Now that we have this link, what it teaches us about the health and maintenance of these blood vessels also may help a great deal in understanding and preventing their loss in aging and in diabetes."

JOHN ATKINSON

WUSTL engineers find common ground in brain folding, heart development

"Engineers at Washington University are finding common ground between the shaping of the brain and the heart during embryonic development."

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

Chase named director of Tyson Research Center

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

"Our department made a commitment to build our faculty in ecology about five years ago, and Jon was our first hire," said Ralph S. Quatrano, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. "Since then, he has been a major force in building our faculty. His vision, commitment, expertise and connections with the ecological community will make Tyson an integral part of the campus-wide environmental initiative. Jon will be an outstanding leader."
Retirees honored by University at luncheon

By Jessica Davis

When Thomas Murry began his career at Washington University School of Medicine in 1974, the campus looked a bit different. Some buildings around then no longer are standing, and the first lab in which he worked has undergone, well, some cosmetic changes.

"The lab was turned into a women's bathroom," Murry said. "That's how small it was."

Murry was one of 72 people who are among the retirees this past year. He joined 22 other retirees, their families and friends, Sept. 25 for a celebratory luncheon hosted by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton at the Whittemore House.

In retirement, in attendance received a walnut plaque featuring the University seal and the number of years of his or her service.

Presenting the plaques were: Wrighton; Larry Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs; and Sam Halvorsen, executive vice chancellor for public affairs and Ann Prentam, vice chancellor for human resources.

"Today, people at Washington University are benefiting from your hard work," Wrighton told the retirees. "On behalf of every one of us here at Washington University, we thank you for your contributions."

The 72 retirees contributed a total of 1,536 years of service to the University.

Retirees and their lengths of service

Claire Anees (12 years); Barbara Beck (15 years); Shalyce Beulah (10 years); Michael Bando (20 years); Eliza- beth Barger (25 years); James Bax-
oder (14 years); Mark Bazzante (21 years); Maria DeArco (18 years); Patricia Deves (15 years); Jaye Don-
 коллективу (20 years); David Go-
won (12 years); Barbara Hal-
brooke (22 years); Anne Henne (11 years); Virginia Herbert (16 years); Quacjiu Ha (18 years); Carol Jones (15 years); Jessica Jones (25 years); Vicki Kemp (20 years); Aida Kayo (15 years); Joann Labruyre (28 years); Ruth Laddison (17 years); Mary Ann Lafer (12 years); Judith Larko (17 years); Sharon Litte (10 years); Deborah Long (Medical and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Affairs, 28 years) and Benny Woods (Olin Library, 30 years) — each received a basket of flowers.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton (left) hosted a luncheon to celebrate the contribution of 72 recent retirees to the University. The retirees attending the luncheon with the greatest number of years of service — from right (Thomas Murry (Radiology, 32 years), Deborah Long (Biological and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Affairs, 28 years) and Benny Woods (Olin Library, 30 years) — each received a basket of flowers.

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William Wilfley said, "An "active" treatment means the return to in any combination of physical activity or treatment recommendations.

Sessions varied widely — from family counseling sessions on diet to child-only physical training sessions and exercise counseling.

The researchers looked at studies involving children, adolescents and teenagers. Some children participated in active treatment programs with an average of about 18 sessions. Others had no treatment or were offered educational sessions only. The children who participated in treatment programs experienced an 8 percent to 9 percent reduction in weight status, which is the child's weight in relation to various factors such as age and height. Without treatment or with education only, there was a 2.1 percent increase in weight status.

Diabetes mellitus, childhood obesity and sleep apnea are among the chronic health problems that most affect children. Professionals are working to find early warning signs and effective treatment for these conditions.

"I believe that all children have a right to be healthy and happy," Wilfley said. "The challenge is finding ways to make sure that happens."
Smoking impairs ligament healing, researchers find

By JIM DIVIS

THE list of reasons to not smoke is getting longer: Smoking researchers report that smoking interferes with ligament healing, slowing repair work on knee injuries that require ligament injuries, the team discovered that smoking delays healing for ligament repair surgery. They also highlighted the findings in the journal of Orthopaedic Research.

The researchers looked at the mouse medial collateral ligament (MCL), a ligament that supports the knee joint in both mice and in people. Each year in the US, there are more than 300,000 reported ligament injuries in joints and MCL injuries, and about 4% of these are most common. They also are the most common injuries seen in competitive and recreational sports, although many go unresearched.

"A lot of MCL injuries never make it to the operating room because patients will have a sore knee but don't seek treatment," said Rick W. Wright, M.D., associate professor of orthopaedic surgery and a senior investigator on the study.

Previous studies have shown that the mouse provides a good paradigm for what happens in injured human knees.

"This is a good model for knee ligament injury, but it could be a model for ligament injuries anywhere in the body. It's likely the biology is applicable to other knee, elbow, shoulder, and other ligaments," said Linda J. Sandell, Ph.D., professor of orthopaedic surgery. "It's likely the biology is applicable to other knee, elbow, shoulder, and other ligaments."

To look at the effects of smoking, Sandell and Wright and their colleagues used a system developed at the School of Medicine in which mice are placed inside smoking chambers six days per week. The mice do not have cigarettes in their mouths, but they get enough free radicals to "smoke" two cigarettes daily, the equivalent of a person smoking about four packs per day. Mice were placed in the smoking chambers for two months before MCL surgery and then again after surgery to mimic the behavior of humans who continue to smoke following an injury.

The soft tissue healing that occurs following ligament injuries occurs in stages. There is an initial immediate pooling of blood near the injury, the sort of hemmorhaging that will cause swelling right away. This initial response is followed by several days of inflammation, in which cells called macrophages flock to the injury site and recruit secretory called cytokines and chemokines. These, in turn, recruit more cells to assist in healing.

The final stage of healing involves remodeling of the tissue and can continue for months and even years.

An earlier study found an increase in cell density and gene activity to produce type I collagen, in the first week following an MCL injury, so researchers paid close attention to cell density, biomechanics, and gene expression during the first week after MCL repair. In mice exposed to cigarette smoke, cell density was lower and type I collagen gene expression was reduced. "Our studies also have shown a decreased macrophage response that may help explain why we see this delayed or decreased healing response," Wright said.

"With the mouse surgery to the right knee, we are testing the ability of the gene therapy vectors for individual patients," Corbo said. "This is a good model for knee ligament injury, but it could be a model for ligament injuries anywhere in the body. It's likely the biology is transferable to other knee, elbow, shoulder, and other ligaments."
University Events

Collage in space

Acclaimed artist Judy Pfaff returns to WUSTL for visiting artist lecture

A detail from Judy Pfaff's 2003 installation "Neither Here Nor There" at the Ameringer/Yova Gallery in New York. Pfaff, a graduate of Washington University, is one of the most acclaimed installation artists working today. She will speak about her work Oct. 11 for the Sam Fox school's Visiting Artist Lecture Series.

Darwin's Nose • Sugar Shock • Spirituality at WUSTL

Exhibits


Lectures

Thursday, Oct. 4

Non. Genetics Seminar. "Dissecting the Genetics of Human Disease." Patrick Gusella, dir. of the center for nonlinear systems research, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Friday, Oct. 5

Bio. Cell Biology & Physiology Seminar. "The Importance of Noggin, a signal molecule that is known to control early development in vertebrates, for the regulation of bone growth in vivo. The mechanism by which Noggin controls bone growth remains unknown." J. Michael T. Ross, prof. of molecular biology and genetics, Stanford U.

Monday, Oct. 8


Thursday, Oct. 11

Non. Genetics Seminar. "Recent advances in the study of the role of the non-coding genome in human disease." John Reardon, assoc. prof. of genetics, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Imigration topic of Constitutional Conference

The St. Louis Chapter of the American Jewish Congress and the School of Law are co-sponsoring the 27th annual Constitutional Conference titled "In a Nation of Immigrants, Immigration Impasse: The Future of the American Movement During Knee Flexion in Prone Cells." Patricia Johnson, prof. of microbiology, Univ. of Washington.

"The Evolution of Parasite Trichomonas Vaginalis to Host the Human Host." Barry Baylin, prof. of oncology, Johns Hopkins U.

"Rudolph Ganz and Musical Artistic Endeavors." William Coult, prof. of musicology, Univ. of Chicago.

"Human Genetic Diseases: Insights Into Their Evolution and to register: 747-1522.


"Taking Cues From Damaged DNA." Barry Baylin, prof. of oncology, Johns Hopkins U.

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Heralded dancer Alberto del Saz to teach, perform on campus

BY LAM OTTEN

A

claimed dancer Alberto del Saz, artistic director of the Midwest Louis and Nikolais Dance Company as well as co-director of The Alexander/HelenWU Foundation for Dance, will teach an open master class in modern dance technique, choreography and improvisation and set choreography for "Tensile Involvement" by the innovative multimedia choreographer Abraham Nikolais (1910-93). One of Nikolais' signature works, "Tensile Involvement" consists of 10 dancers moving a work a week and manipulating a large grid of elastic bands. (Robert Altman's film "The Company" features a version by the [offrey Ballet].

Students will form an improvisational Tensile Involvement, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, as part of "Revolutions," the 2007 Dance Theatre concert. In addition, UCLA's acclaimed Rosen- Woodbury Dance Company will include the piece as part of "Nikolais Dance Theatre's" an evening-length concert of Nikolais choreography Nov. 2-3, as part of Edmondson's CHICAGO TRUNK Series.

"This is the first time that a student dance class will be able to see a work that is being learned for Dance Theatre before they perform it," said Mary-Jean Cowell, Ph.D., associate professor of dance in the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences' dance program. "This will be exciting for the dancers and a bonus for St. Louis Dance audiences. The dance is an intriguing one that typically prompts a reaction of wanting to see it again."

Del Saz, a member of Nikolais Louis and Nikolais Dance Company for more than 20 years, has staged "Tensile Involvement" for university and professional dance companies around the world. A former Southern National Champion in figure skating, del Saz received his early dance training at the Nikolais Louis Dance Lab in New York, working directly with both Nikolais and Murray Louis. Del Saz was a full-time Louis/Louis lead soloist in 1985 and toured internationally with the company appearing at the Kennedy Center and other major venues as well as on the PBS American Masterpieces series. Del Saz has been featured as a guest solo artist in works by Hansa Holm, Claudia Gitten, Maureen Fleming, Sara Pearson, and Lily Vance, performing with leading dance educators and choreographers. In 1997 he danced Rudolf Nureyev's role in "Lour" "Moments." He is currently a choreographer for bombastic model figure skating. He won the Bobo and Olympic bronze medalist, and for members of the Missouri Dance Organization and四方枝, a former assistant Professional Champion Philippette Cardenello. Del Saz is a member of the public and free for members of the Missouri Dance Organization and the Missouri-St. Louis Oct. 19-21.

The East Asian Studies program in Arts and Sciences is a key sponsor of the conference, which was expected to draw more than 300 scholars from across the Midwest. The University will be well represented, with more than 20 faculty members on panels and more than 10 graduate students presenting papers.

As conference chair, Rebecca Bobek, Ph.D., professor of Japanese language and literature in Arts and Sciences, has assembled a diverse, interdisciplinary program that includes 50 presentations and a keynote address by Chinese political historian Elizabeth Perry, the Rosemary Kennedy Professor of Government at Harvard University.

The University also is co-sponsoring a prosecco outreach workshop from 8:30 to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, for local elementary- and high-school teachers with an interest in bringing Asian studies into their classrooms. "Envisioning Asia in the K-12 Classroom," the workshop will explore the importance of graphic novels, comics and animation in Korean, Chinese and India, as well as strategies for incorporating these materials into the classroom experience. Workshop fee is $30; registration

World to Host First Conference on Asian Affairs

BY GERRY EVERDING

Marines in Tibet, cube images in Tibet and sex, work and memory in 20th century China will be among topics discussed at Washington University on Oct. 30 for the annual Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) at St. Louis Oct. 19-21.

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Sports

Football continues winning ways

The football team scored 24 unanswered points in route to a 24-3 home victory against Rhodes College Sept. 29. The Bears limited Rhodes to 12 total offensive yards in the second half. Junior quarterback Buck Smith finished with 310 in passing for 228 yards and two touchdowns and has thrown for 1,014 yards through five games. Senior Michael Casper had three tackles for 7.2 yards while including a touchdown, while junior Kyle Mikkola added 41 yards for 61 yards, WUSTL improved to 4-1, its best start since 2001.

Men's soccer opens FAA play with win

Sophomore Nat Zener scored two goals in the second half as the Bears opened University Athletic Association play with a 3-2 home win against Carnegie Mellon Sept. 29. The victory was their first against Carnegie Mellon since a 2-1 win in Pittsburgh in 2001. It also was WUSTL's fifth consecutive win in FAA season play since 2001.

Cross country teams compete in Minnesota

The men's and women's cross-country teams competed at the Roy Griak Invitational in Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 29. The No. 3 women's squad placed third, while the junior men's team finished sixth out of 15 teams. Senior Kate Pentak finished seventh overall with a time of 22:56.9. The men's team placed fifth as James McDaniel was the best finisher, coming in 10th place at 36:7 with a time of 26:20.

Men's tennis sweeps singles, doubles titles

Men's tennis swept the singles and doubles titles in the 2007 Wilson/Intercollegiate Tennis Association (TTA) Central Regional Championship this past weekend in Salamanca, N.Y.

Women's soccer unbeaten, united

The women's soccer team posted two victories to improve its overall record to 10-0. On Sept. 26, sophomore Caryn Rousell scored two goals in a 3-0 win against Webster University. WUSTL followed with a 6-0 home win against Carnegie Mellon Sept. 29. After a scoreless first half, freshman Jami Buffone netted the game-winning goal in the 71st minute, firing a shot to an open net. Rousell scored the insurance goal in the 86th minute for the Bears as she fired a shot to the far corner from 20 yards out for her team-leading sixth goal of the season. WUSTL extended its women's University Athletic Association winning streak to eight games and its regular season streak to 24 games.

WUSTL quarterback Buck Smith, a pre-med biology major in Arts & Sciences, has thrown for 1,014 yards through five games.

Finding

Genome sequencing helps lead to discovery

From Page 1

With a grant from the University of California Santa Cruz Genome Sequencing Center (GSC), scientists recently began a new project. The lead researchers, Amna Richards, M.D., Ph.D., at that time a member of the Atkin- son lab and now clinical scientist in nephrology at Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, elected to begin the search with a simple gene with a structure that made it easier to sequence.

That gene, TREX1, turned out to be a gene they were looking for. In the 10 families the scientists studied, they found that family members with RVCL carried one of five different TREX1 mutations. A small but rapidly expanding body of research shows that this gene already exists, and ready exists on TREX1, which is an important mammalian gene. It is active in almost all cells, where it proofreads DNA for er-

ers and helps correct these mis-
taken.

According to Atkinson, though, there's little in the limit-
ed TREX1 literature to suggest why mutations in the gene should cause small blood vessels to start dying off in middle-aged RVCL patients. This is where the GSC may have a fundamental role in understanding that health of all blood vessels has previously unrecognized.

"We're very hard to understand every-
thing we can about RVCL, to try to give us some hints about what's happening to people with RVCL," Atkinson said.

"We then may provide insights into why these same ves- sel sometimes start dying, in this case, the elderly, leading to a variety of complications. The disease was discovered relatively recently, and its genetic basis was identified by the GSC, so it's time for us to find a treatment."

Atkinson's lab already has identified a lead. They showed that two of the mutations they identified for RVCL could create a false signal from the TREX1 pro- tein, a false signal that points itself to the part of the cell where it normally does its job.

Scientists are studying whether this dysfunction could have any link to the damage that occurs in RVCL.

Chase

Tyson Research Center a thriving place

From Page 1

"We're open for business. Tyson is a great facility and a beautiful place, but it's only 2,000 acres. We have great habitats, but not all of the biological, geological or archaeological sites that would complete our complex."

Chase is trying to build a size-

able network within a 100-mile radius of the natural places such as Lime Elk and Castlewood parks, state and county sites, and the Missouri Botanical Garden's nearby Shaw Nature Preserve to allow WUSTL research activities at those places.

"Farther down the road, visitors might see small, rustic cabins on the site."

Any other field stations have a broader community feel, he said. "People come for a round or at least during the field season in cabins on the site. In the past we go out to Tyson grab some samples and go back to campus. That's fine, but we need to conduct to an intellectual and research re-

searchers to stay out at Tyson for extended periods of time."

Chase is offering the WUSTL community an open house Oct. 19. People can take tours, ask questions, see the sites, then finish with a beautiful place, but it's only 2,000 acres. We have great habitats, but not all of the biological, geological or archaeological sites that would complete our complex.

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In addition, Chase and his colleagues are planning a conference at the site that will bring in fundamental ques-

tions in environmental biology and provide collaborative research opportunities for under-
graduates, graduate students and faculty from WUSTL and else-

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"We're open for business," Chase said. "People live there year-

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Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members at the University. Others will be introduced periodically in this space.

Cassey Adcock, Ph.D., joins the Department of History in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor of the history of religion in religious studies. She received her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Bard College in 1994, a master's degree in religious studies from the University of Chicago in 1996 and a master's degree in the history of religions from the University of Chicago in 1997. Her doctoral work was summered this summer from the University of Chicago, where she completed a dissertation on modern religion and political culture in North India in the 19th and 20th centuries. Her main research interests include the exploration of historically specific articulations of the religious and the secular and tolerance in colonial and postcolonial societies.

Asad Qadri Ahmad, Ph.D., joins the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Literatures in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor of modern philosophy and theology with a special focus on logic and epistemology. Classical Arabic poetry and poetic, Hadith studies, Tafra and Gzaric Arab -

Jean Allman, Ph.D., joins the Department of History in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor of Modern Arab History. She is a native of the United States and was awarded a doctorate from Northwestern University in 1987, she has held faculty positions at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Minnesota, where she was tenured in 1996, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she joined in 2003 as professor of History — with appointments in African Studies and gender and women's studies — and where she served as director of the university's Center for African Studies from 2003-07. She is a specialist on the social, cultural and political history of the Ottoman Empire and the author or editor of six books, including, most recently, "TongNaar: The History of Black African Goats" (2003).

Elamira Martin, Ph.D., joins the Ohio Business School as assistant professor of accounting. She focuses her research on the role of volunteer accounting disclosures, the effectiveness of financial ratios and the role of independent auditors. Martin has a doctorate in financial accounting from the University of Michigan, a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Hong Kong Baptist University and a master of science in business administration from the Hong Kong Baptist University in Hong Kong.

Katharina Lodders, Ph.D., research associate professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, has received a two-year, $77,774 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center for research titled "Comparative Exoplanetology: Constraining the Properties of Extrasolar Giant Planet Atmospheres."...  

Jennifer Loughman, Ph.D., of the Department of Pediatrics, John Murphy, Ph.D., of the Department of Molecular Biology & Physiology, Ammae Mallard, Ph.D., of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Keity Stetter, Ph.D., of the Department of Biochemistry, have been awarded a three-year, $911,595 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for research titled "Postdoctoral Fellows in Molecular Biology and Biomedical Sciences," each of which will focus on the effect of protein overexpression on the cell cycle.

Bradley L. Schlaggar, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of Neurology, Pediatrics, Anatomy & Neurobiology and Radiology, has joined the School of Medicine during 2006-07 to develop digital collator software to support the Spenser Project. The engineering school students received degree credits for their work on this project. The collaboration between the humanities and Arts & Sciences, and the School of Engineering was the first of its kind, said Lodder. In addition to Lodder, the new faculty members at the center of the Spenser Project are: Patrick Cherry, professor of English, Pennsylvania State University; Elizabeth Fowler, professor of English, University of Virginia; David Lee Miller, professor of English, Baldwin, University of South Carolina; and Andrew Zucker, fellow in English, Cambridge University.

Schlanger named reporter for ABA prisoner standards

McGuo Schlanger, J.D., professor of law, has been named the new reporter for the American Bar Association's (ABA) effort to rewrite and update its standards relating to the legal treatment of prisoners. These standards are part of the ABA's overall Criminal Justice Standards Project, which is designed to guide policymakers, lawmakers and practitioners in criminal justice matters.

"The American Bar Association is the professional association of our nation's lawyers, and its mission, in short, is to "defend liberty and pursu- ing justice," Schlanger said.

"There is no doubt that in this countryamera and prison administrators, courts and legislatures," Schlanger said.

"I hope the standards we develop will prove useful to jail and prison administrators, courts and legisla- tors," she said.

Last revised in 1986, the ABA prisoner standards include, among others, sections on conditions of confinement; classification and isolation of prisoners; disciplinary rules and procedures; due process and habeas corpus, including use of force and prevention and investigation of sexual and nonsexual violence; medical and mental health care; and the legal rights of prisoners. Schlanger is a member of the national Commis- sion on the Racial Justice in Prisons, an expert on civil rights litigation, particularly litigation involving prisoners. Schlanger's work has been cited in the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, an online database and repository for civil rights litiga- tion, court orders, opinions and pleadings.

For the Record

An 1853 engraving of Edmund Spenser (1522-1599). The WUSTL students current-ly working on the project are fantastic," said Lodder. They are quite meticulous, imaginative, hard- working and efficient. One of the unique aspects of the project is the opportunity to gain significant experience in working on the project.

My hope is that this project will be a model for future projects in the arts and sciences.

The Spenser Archive will make the works of Spenser available to a new audience, and will expand the understanding of the works of the 16th-century English poet.

The grant provides outright funding for the creation of the "Collected Works of Edmund Spenser," a three-volume print edition of Spenser's works, as well as a digital edition. The Spenser Archive will make the works of Spenser's collected works, which will be available by 2010. The grant also supports the development of digital collator software to support the Spenser Project.

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Bradley P. Stoner is quite a multi-tasker. Firmly entrenched in both the Dunford and Medical campuses, Stoner has easily and effectively bridged the gap between the two, combining his love of anthropology with a passion for public health.

Stoner, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences and of medicine in the School of Medicine, chairs in his office with Pornskal Chandhanumthra, a senior majoring in anthropology and biology, both in Arts & Sciences. "Brad is always enthusiastic, engaged and engaging in his mastery of the subject," says Victoria J. Fraser, M.D., the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine and co-director of the School of Medicine's Infectious Diseases division. "He inspires students to understand the complex dynamics of behavior, social groups, networks and disease transmission."