

Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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To join the Arizona CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations publish our newsletter and educational materials. A year's subscription is included with your contribution.

CFAAR: Who We Are

CFAAR is a nonprofit educational organization which formed in response to activists who were attempting to discredit animal research and animal researchers in 1988. Several local CFAAR chapters have since sprung up across the country. These groups share the following objectives:

- 1) To **organize** students, faculty, and staff at institutions where animal research is performed so effective letter writing campaigns can be initiated quickly.
- 2) To **educate** the public, in general, and the campus, in particular, about the true nature of animal research and animal researchers.
- 3) To **support** responsible and humane use of animals in biomedical research.

The first of these objectives will be the primary function of the group. As legislation is introduced that affects animal research, we need to respond so our representatives know exactly how we, the people, want them to vote. Accordingly, through our newsletter, we will help inform you about legislation and other "happenings" concerning attacks on animal research. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to contact your Washington, D.C. representatives.

The key to the effectiveness of this organization is you! We need your willingness to write an occasional letter, perhaps talk with a school group and, of course, give a few dollars to cover the cost of printing the newsletter and educational materials.

**HELP SUPPORT CFAAR
SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU**

Mail Bombs Received By Scientists - Source Unknown

Two scientists on opposite coasts have been seriously injured by mail bombs in the last two days, resulting in a great deal of shock, fear and concern among members of the scientific community. While we have no reason to believe that these incidents were in any way related to animal rights, we would like to remind constituents of the general precautions they should follow, particularly since there are a number of rumors circulating.

Facts available about the two incidents are as follows: On Tuesday, June 22, Dr. Charles Epstein, a professor of pediatrics at the University of California at San Francisco, received at his home a padded brown envelope, which set off a powerful explosion. The second bomb went off at a Yale University computer center, injuring Associate Professor David Gelernter, director of Yale's undergraduate Computer Science program. Both victims underwent surgery for multiple injuries and remain hospitalized. U.S. Postal inspectors, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are still investigating. According to authorities, the source of the bombs and the motive for them being sent are not known. No one has claimed responsibility.

General Precautions: These sad events also cause the Foundation and National Association for Biomedical Research to remind their constituents of the **routine precautions to follow dealing with a suspicious letter or parcel**. Unexpected mail large enough to contain a box of matches should be treated with caution.

Question the following characteristics:

- , foreign mail, air mail and or special delivery
- , restrictive markings such as confidential, personal, etc.
- , excessive postage or excessive weight

, handwritten or poorly typed address,
, misspellings of common words
, incorrect titles or titles but no names
, oily stains or discolorations
, no return address
, rigid envelope, lopsided or uneven
, envelope, protruding wires or tinfoil
, excessive securing material such as
, masking tape, string, etc. or visual
distractions.

What Not To Do - Don't touch and don't move things that you don't know what they are. Don't move the package away from people - move the people away from the package. Don't place near vital equipment, don't investigate too closely and don't cover or insulate them.

What To Do? - Telephone the local police immediately and seek their advice.

Again, we have no reason to believe that these terrifying incidents are in any way related to animal activists. However, the bombings do remind us that members of the scientific community can be vulnerable and should remain vigilant.

(NABR Alert, Vol 15, No 3, 6/24/93)

White House Science Advisor Talks About Animal Research

Rumors started prior to Gibbons' January confirmation hearing, prompting Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) to question him on the issue. On that occasion, Dr. Gibbons stated his support for animal research saying, "I understand and appreciate very much the importance of the use of whole animals in doing whole body research. You have to think about the organism in developing medical science and in understanding how these things work." He also discussed the importance of developing alternatives to using animals in the laboratory, but concluded, "I do not believe that we should avoid using animals entirely. I think that is simply not defensible." Dr. Gibbons has continued to make similar statements in subsequent interviews. Still, other comments he has chosen to make have led to confusion.

Most recently Associated Press Science Editor Paul Raeburn attempted to sort out Gibbons' opinions. In an AP wire story of March 8 Raeburn reports that Gibbons dismisses scientists' concerns about his views and once again says he is "a strong supporter of the use of animals in research when necessary." Nevertheless, Raeburn says Gibbons is "a firm believer in animal rights, refuses to eat veal and believes some researchers have needlessly abused laboratory animals."

In the AP story, Gibbons confirmed that an animal rights bumper sticker that he thinks came from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) adorned the family car in the mid-1980's. His wife was once a member of PETA, although Gibbons indicated she let the membership lapse three or four years ago when the group got more and more "fringy." He said both he and his wife are interested in protection of primates and that Mrs. Gibbons now belongs to a group called the International Primate Protection League. That organization primarily monitors illegal primate trade, but also joins PETA in lawsuits concerning laboratory animal protection, the last one being a suit against Tulane University.

Gibbons also explained some his past comments on animal research by telling Raeburn, "My accusation to that community at my confirmation hearing was they ought to be taking better care of the abuses that historically have occurred. I've seen videotapes. I know. Abuses have occurred."

NABR consulted with members of the Senate science committee in preparation for the Gibbons confirmation hearings. The Association has also been contacted and/or quoted in all media reports. We have emphasized the positive statements that Dr. Gibbons continues to make and the fact that the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) reports on animal research and animal patenting issued while Gibbons was OTA Director were fair unbalanced. However, we want to be sure Dr. Gibbons understands our commitment to animal welfare rather than "animal rights." NABR and many other national scientific organizations are communicating with him about the dedication of scientists to animal care and the need to educate the general public about that fact.

(NABR Update, Vol. 14, No. 5, 3/10/93)

Artificial Blood

It was recently reported that transfusions using real blood may be a thing of the past within five to ten years with the development of synthetic blood substitutes, according to a UC Davis research biochemist, Leigh Segel. Capable of replacing red blood cells as the carrier of oxygen to body tissue, artificial blood promises to significantly advance emergency medical care—offering something that can be administered immediately without the need of typing. It also has major implications in the areas of chemotherapy, surgery and organ transplants, Segel says.

She has used artificial blood to replace a rat's entire blood supply, and the animal replenished its blood supply without suffering organ damage. Also, employing a circulatory device developed at UC Davis, Segel has found that artificial blood can preserve the life of a rabbit's heart outside the body for more than nine hours – twice the time achieved using cold saline solutions.

New Animal Models For Alzheimer's Disease

Lab Animal recently reported that a team of Johns Hopkins and Harvard scientists reported a marker protein called amyloid, found in large amounts in the brains of Alzheimer's disease victims, has recently been found in the brains of aging monkeys, apes, dogs, and in a polar bear. This finding, published in *Science*, provides investigators with new animal models with which to study this brain-damaging disorder that afflicts more than 3 million Americans.

According to Donald L. Price, M.D., Director of the Hopkins Alzheimer's Research Center, scientists can use these animals to learn about important biological issues related to the disease. Dr. Price said that although nonhuman mammals do not develop Alzheimer's disease, studies among a colony of aged monkeys and other animals at Hopkins found elevated levels of amyloid in their brains. This protein is associated with "plaques," which are the microscopic hallmark of the disease.

This similarity in amyloid levels provides a strong biochemical connection with which to

investigate the biological basis for memory impairment.

The animals under study have lived well beyond their normal life expectancies and have exhibited memory loss and behavioral changes that mimic some of the brain abnormalities of Alzheimer's disease.

(CA Biomedical Research Association)

Laws Protect Animals, Ensure Healthy Models For Researchers

It has been said that we aren't afraid of death so much as the incompleteness of our lives. One aspect of completeness lies in having a sense of accomplishment, of having contributed something to life.

In that sense, animals used in biomedical research live fully. Their lives and deaths contribute to knowledge that can help mankind as well as other animals. They also live comfortably while they are part of the research process.

"Would we want to invest all this effort in sick, mistreated animals?" asks Thomas F. Burks, head of the Department of Pharmacology and associate dean for research at the Arizona Health Sciences Center. "A sick animal is a useless animal for us."

"In addition to the compassion that we as human beings naturally feel for the animals, from the scientific point of view we insist on having the best models we can have. That means we have got to have the healthiest, happiest, non-stressed animals we can possibly get."

"Laboratory animals are somewhat delicate," says pharmacologist and toxicologist Robert T. Dorr of the Arizona Cancer Center. "Most lab-bred mice don't survive well in the wild. Granted some of their brothers and sisters in the wild can live in sewers, but we have to watch in the summer that they don't get too hot, or in the winter that they don't get too cool."

The law requires technicians in animal-care facilities to control the animals' environment. This responsibility extends far beyond feeding and watering and keeping them clean, dry and comfortable. They also have to monitor continuously noise, light, heat and humidity, as well as the use of insecticides, detergents and disinfectants.

Tiers of laws cover the use of almost any animals in biomedical research in the United States.

- All medical research funded by the U.S. government has to comply with the broad principles laid down in "U.S. Government Principles on Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals." This guideline gives broad statements about the care and use of laboratory animals. It's used by other U.S. agencies to develop their own policies.

- The 1966 Animal Welfare Act is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA enforces the act through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which makes frequent on-site inspections. Violations of the act can lead to loss of federal funding and daily fines up to \$2,500 per day for non-compliance and \$1,500 a day for failure to obey a cease-and-desist order.

One reason the act was originally proposed was to prevent the use or sale of stolen dogs and cats in research. It also covers the means by which dogs and cats may be acquired; federal licensing of animal dealers; and concerns such as transportation of animals, record keeping and identification.

- The U.S. Public Health Service's "Policy of Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" sets up methods of ensure compliance with the NIH guide. Ninety percent of all basic research and two-thirds of all clinical research in the United States are funded by the Public Health Service, so procedures outlined in this policy carry clout. Non-compliance could mean loss of funding.

The act and the policy require that committees be formed at each research institution to oversee the care and use of laboratory animals. This federal requirement is fairly recent, but The University of Arizona's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which oversees compliance with all regulations, has existed since the 1960's.

The 15-member committee, which includes five veterinarians and three members from the local community, peruses detailed six-page animal protocol review forms required of any researcher who wants to use animals. The university will not order animals for any experiment until the forms have been approved.

The purpose of the protocol-review process is to ensure that investigators are seeking the highest quality data using a minimum

of animals, according to Michael A. Cusanovich, UA vice president for research.

Protocol review also seeks to ensure that projects don't unnecessarily duplicate what someone else has done, says Susan E. Wilson-Sanders, associate director of University Animal Care.

Protocol approval is not a rubber-stamp process, says John B. Mulder, a veterinarian and director of University Animal Care. He estimates that about 20 percent of all initial applications are returned to researchers for more information and clarification.

Investigators and their technicians are required to be trained and certified in the proper use of animals. Their certification numbers must appear on protocol-review forms before they can be approved.

The UA has spent more than \$6 million in the past five years on animal-care equipment, positions, and facilities, Mulder says. There are 39 full-time employees who work in the offices and in two animal-care facilities. One is at the University Medical Center and another in the Biological Sciences West building on the main campus. The staff includes seven veterinarians and 30 technicians, Cusanovich says.

A third, new facility adjacent to the Pharmacy-Microbiology Building on the main campus is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1990. This three-story, 20,000-square-foot building costing about \$4.5 million will be able to house as many as 5,000 animals. In addition, a \$1 million expansion of the UNC facility is under way.

These new facilities will allow researchers to expand their programs as well as consolidate administration of the animal-care program. When the construction is completed, Mulder says, the university plans to seek accreditation from the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, the highest standard for animal care today.

The UMC facility has been accredited since 1969, but main campus facilities and the university farms are not.

All facilities are inspected. The NIH conducts unannounced site visits to be sure institutions are operating within the parameters of the policy and the guide. The USDA inspects at least twice a year. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee makes it rounds twice a year. University Animal Care inspects monthly. In

addition, a supervisor or a veterinarian carry out daily inspections.

(Lo Que Pasa, March 23, 1990)

Cystic Fibrosis Mouse

By Lantz Miller

After a painfully long development process, researchers at the departments of pathology and medicine at the University of North Carolina (UNC) devised a mouse model of cystic fibrosis (CF). Afflicting 30,000 Americans, CF is the country's most common fatal genetic disease, and has eluded animal modeling for years. Three years ago, scientists discovered the human gene that is defective in CF Patients, and researchers began scrambling to make an animal model lacking this gene. Research assistant professor Beverly Koller's successful UNC team published its results in the August 21 Science, possibly creating a medium for treatment tests vastly cheaper than human clinical trials.

An early step of the process involved knocking the gene out of the DNA complement of embryonic stem (ES) cells from which the investigator grows mosaic mice that have one copy of altered gene. But the mouse ES cells refused the knockout until the Koller team tried a different CF gene clone. Then, during the next step -crossing two mosaic mice to derive offspring with two gene copies - the mosaic egg and sperm never ended up with copies of the altered gene. The team had to make more batches of mutant ES cells to get the right sperm and eggs. Other teams racing to make the same kind of mouse experienced similar problems, adding to the surprise when the Koller group announced its results at a June conference.

"It's a heroic piece of work," CF researcher Alan Smith of Genzyme (Cambridge, MA) told Science. The reviews poured in like a blockbuster movie: "stunning," "wonderful," "a major, major discovery," "very important." But the salient question was, would the knockout mice show the right symptoms? One the problem with human CF patients is low chloride problems, and as the mice matured, they developed blockages. Because of the resulting nutritional deprivation, they were small for their age, like many CF children. The divergence in symptoms between species, though, was in the lungs: the mice had the enlarged mucus glands and increase of

mucus secreting cells like in humans, but not the persistent infections and clogging that cause 95% of the human CF deaths.

"When the animals live for a relatively short period of time in sterile environments, they get very modest lung disease," said one author of the study, professor of medicine Richard C. Boucher of UNC, in the August 21 Boston Globe. "I think the important thing they did get a little." The mice might have been dying of intestinal blockages before lung disease fully developed; if so, dietary measures may prolong their lives to facilitate study of the lung disease. Even if the murine lungs never mimic the human, the knockout mice may still be useful for testing therapies that restore normal chloride secretion.

To keep all these research channels open, Koller's team is going to make the results of their work readily available – unlike may profit-minded creators of knockout mice. The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor Maine is to breed and sell the mice very cheaply, at the cost of breeding. If the researchers are lucky, this will set a precedent not only for CF research, but for all transgenics.

(Lab Animal, Vol 21, No 9, October 1992)

PETA Writes to IACUC Chairs

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) National Director Ingrid Newkirk has sent letters to the institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) chairperson at research facilities that listed laboratory animals under column "E" in their 1991 annual report to the USDA. Column "E" of this report, required under the Animal Welfare Act shows the number of animals, if any, by species that were involved in procedures causing pain or distress and for which pain-relieving drugs "…would have adversely affected the procedures, results or interpretation..." An explanation of the procedures reported in column "E" and the reasons pain relieving drugs were not used must be attached to the annual report. USDA's summary report for 1991 indicates that 6% of all animal reported were involved in painful experiments when appropriate drugs could not be given for scientific reasons. The USDA summary document as well as individual research facility annual reports to USDA are available to the public.

Based on information supplied by recipients, the PETA letters are non-personalized form letters dated early in June and apparently sent to all facilities reporting animals in Column "E". The letters quote excerpts of the Animal Welfare Act regulations dealing with some of the IACUC responsibilities regarding painful procedures and review of public complaints. Copies of articles describing invasiveness scales that rate pain and/or stress, authored by David G. Porter and Barbara Orlans, are attached. Use of the scales by the IACUC is recommended. The point of the letter seems to request that "you use your authority to reject proposed or ongoing experiments which cause unalleviated animal suffering." The letter ends with several questions on whether column "E" experiments continue to be conducted and what action the IACUC has taken or will take with regard to the PETA complaint.

(NABR Update, Vol 14, No 12, 6/23/93)

Grand Jury Indicts Activist in MSU Break-In

A Michigan federal grand jury has issued a five-count indictment against Rodney Adam Coronado for the arson and vandalism that destroyed a Michigan State University (MSU) laboratory and office and caused over \$200,000 in damages on February 28, 1992. The grand jury is among five convened in Louisiana, Michigan, Oregon, Utah, and Washington currently investigating the illegal activities of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). ALF claimed responsibility for ransacking and then setting fire the MSU office of Dr. Richard Aulerich, head of the University's animal nutrition research project involving minks.

John A. Smietanka, United States Attorney General for the Western District of Michigan, announced the indictment of Coronado on the following five charges:

Count 1: Maliciously damaging and destroying by means of fire and explosives the personal property of Professor Richard Aulerich and Anthony Hall at MSU.

Count 2: Traveling in interstate commerce from Oregon to Michigan with the intent to facilitate the promotion, management,

establishment and carrying on of an unlawful activity and to commit a crime of violence to further an unlawful activity at MSU and to facilitate a plan of extortion in violation of federal law.

Count 3: Devising a plan and purpose to obstruct, delay and affect commerce through extortion and attempted extortion, and knowingly and unlawfully committing an act of physical violence to the property of MSU in furtherance of that plan and purpose.

Count 4: Willfully using fire to commit the offense of interference with commerce through extortion.

Count 5: Knowingly and unlawfully transporting, transmitting and transferring in interstate commerce goods, wares and merchandise worth more than \$5,000 knowing them to be stolen. Specifically, the indictment states that Coronado sent via Federal Express a package addressed to a Bethesda, Maryland residence. This package contained research material stolen from Aulerich, which the defendant knew was stolen and which was intercepted in Memphis, Tennessee by Federal Express employees after they discovered that he had used a false Federal Express account number as payment for shipment.

According to Smietanka, if Coronado is convicted on all charges he faces a maximum fine of \$1.25 million and supervised release of 15 years. Smietanka emphasized that the investigation of ALF is continuing. He stated the evidence suggests that Coronado did not act alone and that the investigation will not be complete until all available leads are examined. Dr. Bruce Benson, Police Chief and Director of MSU's Department of Police, stated, "Additional indictments against other persons are possible through Michigan's grand jury as well as grand juries in Washington, Oregon, and Louisiana."

Coronado, 27, has been in hiding for the last several months. According to MSU police, Coronado is a member of a wealthy West Coast steel family, is 5'11", 150 pounds, and has brown eyes and black hair. Coronado's last known address is Jacksonville, Oregon, but he has also resided in California and Washington. MSU police also provided the following alias names used by Coronado: Jim Perez, James A. Perez, James Corrigan and Frank Garcia. While Coronado's date of birth is 07-03-66, he has also used 07-03-

66. Smietanka commented that federal authorities will welcome any information that will lead to Coronado's capture and arrest. Anyone having information about Coronado's whereabouts are encouraged to call their local FBI or AFT office.

Coronado, a known animal rights activist, is the self-proclaimed founder of a group called the Coalition Against Fur Farms. In May 1992, the FBI identified Coronado as the distributor of ALF's press release claiming responsibility for the August 1991 break-in at Washington State University (WSU). Although he admits he distributed the release, Coronado denies being involved in the break-in. (See NABR Update, Vol. 13, No. 22).

The indictment against Coronado, 27, follows more than 16 months of extensive investigation by a task force that includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and MSU's Department of Police and Public Safety. Investigators from each agency have traveled extensively and worked with investigators from WSU, the Oregon State Police, the Los Angeles Police Department and agents from AFT and the FBI in many other states.

(NABR Update, Vol. 14, No. 14, 7/16/93)

Judge Denies Release of Uncooperative Grand Jury Witness

On July 15, U.S. District Judge W. Fremming Nielsen dismissed a motion for release of Ric Scarce, the writer serving time at the Spokane County (Washington) jail for refusing to cooperate with a federal grand jury's investigation of an Animal Liberation Front (ALF) raid at Washington State University. Scarce, author of a book on radical environmental and animal rights groups, refuses to answer questions about conversations he may have had with recently-indicted animal activist Rodney A. Coronado (see above story) and two others who were allegedly at Scarce's house during the time of the WSU raid. (See NABR Update Vol. 14, No. 10).

Scarce's attorneys filed the motion for his release arguing that his imprisonment is no longer to persuade him to testify, but is now punishment for his refusal to do so. Grand jury witnesses who are jailed for contempt and continue to be

uncooperative may be released if it is proven that jail time will not coerce them into testifying. Scarce, who has been serving time since May 14, said that he is in jail "...with 549 other men and women who are here for punishment and I'm not treated any differently." The Moscow-Pullman Daily News reports that "his spirits are sustained by mail from throughout the world, notice he is receiving in national magazines and anticipation of a Supreme Court appeal."

Scarce could remain in jail until the grand juries' term expires in December. There is also the possibility that he may be subpoenaed as a witness for the prosecution in the case against Rodney Coronado.

(NABR Update, Vol. 14, No. 14, 7/16/93)

Support Arizona CFAAR So We Can Continue To Support You- Join AZ CFAAR Today!

How to Write a Letter to the Editor

Writing a letter to the editor is an excellent way to express your opinion about the importance of animal research and to explain the high standards of care and governing lab animal use. Submitting letter to newspapers and magazines is something everyone can do and has potentially enormous benefit. Such letters can reach a large segment of the population and bring the issue to the forefront of public awareness.

What To Write About

Make a point to watch for a letter writing subject material. Look for articles, editorials, and other letters to the editor about medical research and/or animal rights subjects. For example, if an article reports on a new medical breakthrough, a letter pointing out the contributions of animal research to this new discovery is an excellent way of evaluating public awareness on the subject.

Once you have identified a potential subject, it is time to write the letter. Letters to the editor should ideally be submitted no more than three or four days after the item to which you are responding appeared. There is generally some lag time between the time the newspaper or magazine receives your letter and the time it is published. If you wait too long to write your letter, the reading public may well have forgotten the issue that you are addressing. However, even if you cannot get

your letter written within the three or four day period, the important thing is to WRITE!

Writing Your Letter

Letters to the editor should be brief! The ideal length is 100 to 150 words, with 250 words being the absolute maximum a paper or magazine will publish without cutting what the editor thinks is excess. Needless to say, it is better for you to do the editing rather than the editor. The first sentence should be written so as to attract immediate attention-if at all possible, lead with your conclusion. And, make sure you stick to one issue.

Your letter should be typed and double-spaced. Sign it, and be sure to include a telephone number where you can be reached during the day. If you are only available during certain hours, make sure you specify this. Papers and most magazines will call to verify that you wrote and submitted the letter. You should also put your address under your name. Most newspapers and magazines, both large and small. So don't limit your submissions to just one newspaper. The smaller the paper, the more likely that your letter will be published, and even small weekly papers reach thousands of people. Do not submit the same letter to more than one publication. Letters can be similar, but never identical.

If You Don't Get Published

Don't get discouraged! There are many reasons beyond your control that affect the editor's decision about which letter to publish. But if your letter isn't printed, review it with a critical eye, looking for possible improvements. Is it too long? Does it address a specific topic? Does it deliver a message? If you see ways of improving it, make the changes and keep it on file for a future submission to the same, or a different, publication.

Other Letter You Can Write

Don't restrict your letter writing to newspapers and magazines. Television and radio stations can be written to as well. Programs such as 60 Minutes, 20/20, and Hardcopy often cover medical and social issues, and read selected "letters to the editor" on the air. Local TV and radio stations also have talk shows that give coverage to this issue. Even regular TV programming

occasionally contains subtle animal rights messages or mentions medical research. Letters to both local and network stations and the program producers can be very constructive. Addresses, even for the networks, can be obtained by calling the local station and asking whom you send a letter regarding a particular program.

When viewing television programs or listening to the radio, make a note of who sponsored the program and write them as well.

Other Reasons For Writing

Even letters that never get published have considerable impact. Letters to newspapers and magazines help to influence editorial policy. Letters to television and radio producers influence programming. Recently there have been several pro-animal research articles, programs and news reports-and the animal rights activists have responded by writing thousands of letters condemning them. It is extremely important that producers or editors also hear from those in support of animal research. **Remember: newspapers, magazines, television and radio all stay in business by delivering what the public wants- and their means of determining what the public wants is through the letter and telephone calls they receive.**

(N Carolina Association for Biomedical Research)

Tests Results Encouraging In Alzheimers Research

Experiments with rats show that injections of a nerve protein can prevent brain-cell death from a plaque linked with Alzheimer's disease, but there is not proof that the treatment will work in humans.

Dr. Bruce Yankner of the Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital in Boston said Wednesday that he and a group of researchers induced brain-cell degeneration in laboratory rats by injecting them with beta amyloid, a plaque found in the brains of humans with Alzheimer's disease.

In a follow-up experiment, the researchers injected rats with both the beta amyloid and with a natural protein called substance P.

Yankner said the study indicated that substance P can protect brain cells from the lethal influence of the beta amyloid.

(Arizona Republic, August 15, 1991)