

Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101 (520)621-3931 Volume 10, Number 4

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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 years 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**

Animal Activists Enter Presidential Fray

It's a mere 304 days until the U.S. Presidential election, and already animal activists are involved in attempts to make animal rights an issue in the campaign.

PETA has called off the 6 foot rabbit that had dogged Vice President Al Gore's steps over the summer. But now the Humane Society of the United States, which boasts of a mailing list of 7 million names, is asking its supporters to contact presidential candidates and demand to know their position on animal issues. "Animal protection issues should be raised right alongside taxes, education, foreign policy and other pressing concerns of the day," read the latest edition of HUMANELines, an HSUS email list, which went on to note that to date HSUS was not aware of any policy statements on animal issues from any of the candidates.

In recent days there have been a number of ad hoc messages on animal rights listserves in a similar vein, urging presidential candidates to declare themselves "pro-animal." The right to contact to public officials is available to all. Please consider taking a moment to call or send an email to one or all of the candidates, warning that these efforts to get a "pro-animal" declaration are being organized by those seeking to eliminate all animal use for human benefit and that biomedical research will be seriously impacted. The candidates need to hear from patients, families, all of us who benefit from animal research.

Here is the contact information for the candidates, as listed by HSUS:

BUCHANAN: Website: www.gopatgo2000.com;
Email: pat@buchananreform.com;

B U S H : W e b s i t e / E m a i l :
www.georgebush.com/contact/index.html;

GORE: Website: www.algore2000.com/townhall;
Phone: 615-340-2000

(AMP News, 1/8/00)

Enzyme May Be Key to Universal Cancer Vaccine By Julia McNamee Neenan

A vaccine that protects against all kinds of cancers has passed its first set of hurdles in test tubes and mice, researchers announced today. The vaccine, which targets an enzyme active in all cancer cells, works even in the already-weakened immune systems of cancer patients, researchers reported in today's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Early results from test tube experiments show the vaccine kills cancer cells and leaves normal cells alone. What's more, the immune systems in mice also respond to the vaccine. "We have created the premise for a cancer vaccine similar to the polio vaccine developed years ago," says Dr. Maurizio Zanetti, lead author of the study and professor of medicine and immunology at the University of California at San Diego. "This would be like a universal cancer vaccine."

Others are working on vaccines for cancers, but they have been aimed at specific cancers, Zanetti notes. This latest possibility is unique because, so far, it seems to work against all kinds of cancers, simply because all cancers require the presence and activity of a single enzyme, telomerase. "This is one molecule, one mechanism for all types of cancers. The others [vaccines] are all tailored to one kind of cancer," Zanetti says. "The novelty, in fact, is that it opens up the field to simplicity."

Telomerase helps maintain chromosome length when cells reproduce. As a result, it's only necessary in small amounts in normal cells and only when they reproduce. But in cancer cells it must be present at high levels and constantly, Zanetti says. In fact, he said, cancer cells have more than 100 times the amount as normal cells -- and is it there all the time. The vaccination triggers the white blood cells to search out and then kill cells with high amounts of telomerase.

Researchers had feared that cancer patients' white blood cells might be already so overburdened and weakened from fighting the disease that they might not mount a strong attack on the cancer cells even after vaccination. But when blood from cancer patients was tested against blood from patients without cancer, the vaccine proved powerful. Indeed, 40 to 50% of the

cancer cells were killed, and none of the normal cells in either group were killed, Zanetti says.

It didn't matter whether the cancer involved was prostate, breast, colon, lung or skin cancer; the vaccine worked equally well with all of them. "The ability to kill was pretty constant," Zanetti says. The white blood cells, he says, are powerfully changed to target telomerase. "Once they sense it, and attach to it, once they attack, they execute their plan, which is to kill the cells."

Since telomerase is present in all cells, couldn't the vaccine harm normal ones? The normal cells contain so little telomerase and so infrequently that it doesn't look like a big problem, Zanetti says. And weighed in the balance of cancer, the death of a few other cells might not be critical. "There is the potential for side effects," he acknowledges. "But so far it looks like a safe approach."

Studies were also begun with mice, he says, who had been bred so their immune systems resembled humans'. The mice's white blood cells responded to the vaccine anywhere from 50 % to 70% of the time, he said, though more specific research is ongoing, including treating mice with tumors. Clinical trials of humans are also planned. This is just the beginning. The vaccine has only been assessed in test tubes and in mice; much research remains to be done.

(HealthSCOUT, 4/4/00)

Minnesota Animal Rights Advocate Sacrifices All for Cause By Tess Langfus

Armed with dead carcasses, banners and flyers, activist Matt Bullard demands justice for animals. Bullard contends he will do almost anything to protect animals, whom he considers the most oppressed beings on earth. Ostracized by some, highly respected by others, Bullard holds strongly to the ideals driving him toward a goal that has been considered both worthwhile and fruitless.

During the past four years, he has participated in some of the Twin Cities' most bold and creative animal-rights protests. He has hung from buildings, handcuffed himself to department-store doors and enclosed himself in a wire cage. In doing so, Bullard has become a

household name to police officers everywhere. "He's actually given his family up for his beliefs," Bullard's mother said. She has not heard from her son in nearly a year. "I disagree with a lot of things that he does, but ... that's his business."

Last September, Bullard spent six days hanging from Moos Tower with a sign reading "Stop Animal Torture." His stunt attracted hundreds of onlookers, including police officers and rescue units. "It was scary at first, getting used to being up there," Bullard said. "But I remained focused on why I was up there."

The activist had a month of rations and planned to use them until high winds and cold rain forced him to come down. The University of Minnesota Police arrested Bullard for burglary, disorderly conduct and trespassing. The burglary and disorderly conduct charges have since been dropped.

Two weeks later, Bullard, a member of the Student Organization for Animal Rights, again put himself on display when he and other SOAR members caged themselves in front of Moos Tower. As they sat for 91 hours imitating the conditions of primates used for the University's medical research, Bullard said some critical bypassers pelted him with a squirrel carcass, buckets of water and even urine.

In December, police again arrested Bullard when he ignored his 90-day order to stay away from Moos Tower after his trespassing charge. He returned to the building to attend a symposium held by University animal researchers to discuss the validity of their work. University Police apprehended Bullard as he left. "There are certain things I am willing to risk my freedom for," Bullard said. Arrest and jail time is nothing new to Bullard. He's been arrested more than 20 times, once spending six consecutive days in jail. But, educating the public on animal rights is worth it.

Bullard considers himself a full-time, nonviolent activist and environmentalist who is opposed to drugs, alcohol, racism, abortion and, in particular, animal abuse. "I think it's important for people to question anything and everything," he said. Articulate and soft-spoken, the 25-year-old Bullard is recognized on the University campus for his creative, and sometimes bizarre, demonstrations. Bullard is 6-foot-2 and slender, with sandy-blond hair pulled into a ponytail and a small septum ring in his nose. He has holes in his earlobes large enough to see through and promotes his ideals with a

tattoo on his right wrist that reads VEGAN. The animal-rights advocate lives his life with the freedom he says is denied some animals.

Originally from Arkansas, Bullard exists outside the norm, preferring to live in his beat-up white van in the winter and sleep outside in the summer. To Bullard, the "creature comforts" -- a place to live, a daily shower and a steady source of income -- are unnecessary luxuries. For food, Bullard relies on free handouts from co-ops and bruised fruits and vegetables tossed out by grocery stores. "I pretty much, in a way, live off the fat of our society," he said. "I'm kind of on the edge of animal-rights activists as far as lifestyle goes."

Pasted on the rear of his van are bumper stickers promoting veganism and condemning animal violence. Inside, the van is cramped with boxes of clothes and books, a cushioned chair and a sleeping loft. A small television hangs from the ceiling so Bullard can watch news clips of his protest endeavors. "I'm willing to sacrifice certain comforts and aspects of life in order to be fighting for a greater good," he said. "For me, it's living life to the fullest."

Bullard said he would like to someday build a house at the foot of the mountains in the Pacific Northwest. There he would grow his own organic food and "be as small an impact to the ecosystem as possible." "He's living the way of his beliefs," said Ami Voeltz, fellow SOAR member and University alumna. Bullard grew up in Little Rock, which he said "is not the most progressive city." His introduction into animal rights came as a junior-high student when he bought a record album that included a pamphlet describing the demise of a cow born into a factory farm.

From that point, Bullard became a vegetarian and activist. He passed out handmade flyers to classmates demanding a stop to animal abuse, but they were not well received. "He was pretty much ostracized," his mother, Cynthia, said. A year later, he became a vegan, a person who does not use any animal byproducts. Bullard does not consume meat or dairy products, wear wool, leather or fur, or own pets. Bullard's relationship with his family became stressed because of his veganism. While his family does not hunt or wear fur, they do not share his convictions. "They're still not supportive at all," Bullard said. "They are pretty apathetic in their

views on life and what they can do to make a change and a difference."

Bullard contacted other activists via the Internet and eventually left Little Rock for Memphis, Tenn., where he got even more involved in animal rights. Later, in 1996, Bullard arrived in Minnesota and found a community supportive of activists. He decided to stay and, although he is not a University student, joined SOAR as an active member. While most of Bullard's days are spent demonstrating, writing letters or passing out flyers door-to-door, he leaves some free time for reading – "anything to do with social justice" - playing the drums and traveling.

He travels across the country as cheaply as possible, hopping trains or hitchhiking. While he has never stowed away on an airplane, Bullard half-jokingly said he would like to find a way to do it. As a prominent figure in animal rights, Bullard is making plans to leave for Europe in two months to visit other animal-rights activists and educate them on the how-to's of civil disobedience. While Bullard is fairly well known both nationally and in Europe, he has thrived in the Twin Cities. "When he got into Minnesota, he kind of came into the spotlight more so than ever before," said J.P. Goodwin, executive director of the Coalition to Abolish Fur Trade, who has worked with Bullard since 1992.

Goodwin said Bullard was the first to try more unconventional types of demonstrations. Along with a small group of other activists, Bullard and Goodwin started sit-ins and blockades at a Memphis department store that sold furs. Bullard even handcuffed himself to the store's doors. "He was always daring and willing to take a chance for what he believed in," Goodwin said. "When something gets him upset, he takes it like a pit bull and doesn't let go."

In Minneapolis, Bullard and other SOAR members displayed dead animal carcasses on the sidewalk outside Neiman Marcus to protest the department-store's sale of fur coats. Bullard's conviction and creative tactics are the essential components to being a successful activist, said University political science professor Kathryn Sikkink. She won an award in December for her book "Activists Beyond Borders." "Activists have to be strategic when they plan their actions," she said. "They have to plan them so that they will

capture people's imaginations and gather support."

Yet, Sikkink said, while these activities can be unusual, they should not be overtly outrageous. "If it's too bizarre, it may alienate the very people whose support you seek," she said. With the current attempt by University administration to remove SOAR from its list of student-sponsored organizations, Bullard's latest endeavor of hanging from the side of Moos Tower might have alienated University officials. Bullard's demands for the release of research animals was ignored by the University.

Dick Bianco, assistant vice president of the Academic Health Center, is one of Bullard's most vocal critics. "I think his tactics are immature and illegal," Bianco said. As long as Bullard and other activists protest within the realm of legality, Bianco said they have a right to do that. "But when they cross the line into illegal activities, that's where I get a little upset," he said.

Progressive activists like Bullard who protest new and controversial issues are often confronted with hostility, Sikkink said. They are also more tenacious, she said, which "sometimes makes them very difficult to deal with. It's the single-mindedness that serves them very, very well for certain things that they have to do." "I don't see myself as narrow-minded," Bullard said. "I see it as being focused and caring about life."

(Minnesota Daily, 3/12/00)

Drug Reduces Side Effects of Chemotherapy

Some of the serious side effects of cancer treatments can be prevented by a drug that, ironically, briefly blocks the body's natural defense against cancer, according to a study in the journal *Science*. The experimental drug has been used only in mice, but researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago said it should be ready for human tests in about a year.

If the drug works in humans, said Andrei V. Gudkov, then it would mean more vigorous radiation and chemotherapy treatment of cancer without an increase in side effects that cause such misery for patients. "Cancer treatment is usually such a pain that people feel bad not only physically, but also emotionally and

psychologically," said Gudkov, a molecular genetics researcher at the university. "Making this treatment more bearable would be a tremendous advantage for these patients."

Gudkov said the drug works by temporarily knocking out a gene called p53 that normally protects the body against flawed cells that might become cancer. The job of p53 is to identify cells with damaged genes and then to cause those cells to kill themselves. When patients undergo radiation or chemotherapy, the treatment often damages cells that are then forced by p53 to commit suicide.

The problem, said Gudkov, is that p53 sometimes acts so powerfully that it kills cells that are only slightly damaged and that, given a chance, could recover. "P53 pushes a lot of damage cells to die just as a preventative measure," he said. "It kills too many cells. It kills cells that may not need to die." It is the death of these damaged cells that causes many of the side effects of cancer treatment - nausea, hair and weight loss and a weakened immune system.

Gudkov and his team identified a drug, called pifithrin, that blocks the action of p53 for about three hours. Using mice that had tumors, the researchers injected pifithrin in some animals and not in others. All the animals were then subjected to radiation typical of a cancer treatment. Gudkov said those mice with blocked p53 gene tolerated the radiation much better than the other animals. In one test, all 30 treated mice lived 8 ½ months, while only five of an untreated group survived that long.

When the drug wore off, he said, the p53 gene was once more active, but by then the damaged cells had repaired themselves and were not forced to commit suicide. The gene acted only on cells that were beyond repair. The drug has no effect on the cancer itself, said Gudkov, since most cancers lack the p53 gene. The drug could be used only in patients whose tumors did not have the gene, he said. Gudkov said pifithrin will be tested on baboons before it is tested on humans. The baboon work is just getting started.

(USA Today, 9/9/99)

FBR Launches the Internet's Most Comprehensive Animal Rights and Research Resource

Some web sites are overhauled; others get a simple facelift. The Foundation for Biomedical Research has spent the past six months building the most comprehensive site on the Internet dedicated to animal rights and research issues. www.fbresearch.org

For starters, we review all major media sources several times each day and report on important stories and studies with regular news updates. We've also increased ten-fold the number of archived news and research articles and reports, and made all of them searchable; added real-time, downloadable videos of our films, press conferences, television news coverage and public service announcements; and created special sections on research helping children, women and animals.

- * The FBR Press Room includes recent press releases, articles and newspaper mentions, editorials and letters, and a video archive of selected television news coverage from 1999.

- * Approximately 200 animal research news summaries, new FBR Facts reports and 130 FBR News stories dating back to 1997.

- * The FBR Press Room includes recent press releases, articles and newspaper mentions, editorials and letters, and a video archive of selected television news coverage from 1999.

- * The most comprehensive set of links available on the Internet pertaining to animal research and animal rights issues - almost 250 links.

- * The FBR Animal Research Directory of animal rights groups and Illegal Incidents Summaries, providing the most detailed look at animal rights activity anywhere on the Internet, going back almost 20 years.

- * The "Helping Kids" section features an overview of pediatric and vaccine advances, including almost 40 research news stories from 1998-99, and information on vaccine development and birth defects research using animals.

* The "Helping Animals" section features animal research facts; health problems shared by people and animals; pet theft; pet ownership data; human health care and veterinary medicine (1996 Nobel Prize speech); and a number of recent news reports on biomedical advances helping animals.

* The "Helping Women" section features updated information from the FBR Women's Health booklet, with additional information on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

(FBR Release)

If you see an article, cartoon or other item you think your fellow members would enjoy, please send it to us. Thanks!

**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR
2000 Membership Application**

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