

# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

## CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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To join the Arizona Chapter of CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations publish our newsletter and educational materials. A years subscription to this newsletter 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**

### Hundreds Evacuated after Smoke Bombs Triggered in Downtown Seattle

By Dave Birkland

Animal rights activists may be responsible for smoke bombs set off in two downtown buildings in Seattle this morning, sending hundreds of office workers into the streets, police said. Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske called the smoke bombings domestic terrorism and said the targets appear to have been insurance companies whose clients are involved in research that uses animals in their testing. The attacks were described as well-planned and well-timed and occurred within two minutes of each other. Kerlikowske said similar attacks have occurred in other cities.

The FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office are involved in the investigation. Kerlikowske said police have been given a number of descriptions of suspects from people who work in the buildings. John Miller of UNICO Properties, which manages one of the buildings, said he was told by fire officials that the canister found on the 23rd floor had a message which read: "Evacuate the building."

Approximately 700 people in the Financial Center, Fourth Avenue and University Street, were told to leave the building when what authorities called a military-type smoke bomb was found on the 23rd floor at 9:36 a.m., according to fire officials. "Two minutes earlier, a similar smoke device was set off on the 20th floor of a building at Seventh Avenue

and Pike Street,” said Helen Fitzpatrick, Fire Department spokeswoman. At the Seventh and Pike building, two floors were evacuated, but people in that building were allowed back by late this morning.

Floors 18 to 27 were evacuated first in the Financial Center, but a short time later all employees were told to leave the building. Seattle Fire Chief Gary Morris said the risk of fire was high from what he called incendiary devices. There were no reports of injuries. Rufo Calvo, one of the many office workers evacuated, said the evacuation was orderly but he was upset in light of Sept. 11 and continued terrorist threats. “It scares me,” Calvo said.

(Seattle Times, 7/10/02)

## **Tiny Fish May Hold Key to Cancer Cure** By Chang Ai-Lien

An ambitious new project has brought together one of the biggest scientific teams here to study the zebrafish, in the hope that the tiny, transparent creature will help them understand how cancer develops. The effort, which has garnered \$5.5 million in government grants, will see about 50 researchers, including principal scientists, post-doctoral research fellows, PhD and master's students, working together for the next five years.

Assistant Professor Low Boon Chuan, who is from the National University of Singapore's (NUS) department of biological sciences and a principal investigator in the group, told The Straits Times that, like humans, zebrafish can be prone to cancer. 'We will be studying the culprits that cause liver cancer - what genes are being either activated and turned off when the disease occurs, as well as the role of carcinogens. Then, we may be able to design drugs to block the genes or cancer-causing proteins from working,' he said.

The team decided to focus on liver cancer because it is a very common form of cancer in the Asia-Pacific region but there are

not enough studies done on it. In Singapore, liver cancer is the fourth most common cancer among men, with about 400 new cases a year. It is uncommon in women.

Prof Low said the zebrafish had been chosen because it has genes which are similar to human genes. 'Because its body is transparent, we can look at how the embryos are developing and actually see which genes have been activated and where this is taking place in the fish,' he added.

A flagship project of the newly-set-up Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS), the zebrafish group is headed by big names such as the institute's executive director - cancer expert Edison Liu. Senior researchers leading the team will also come from NUS and the Institute of Molecular Agrobiology.

One of them, Dr S. Mathavan, a research scientist at GIS, said that at his institute, researchers had top-of-the-range equipment for micro-array analysis - a technology used to look at large numbers of genes simultaneously. 'We will be studying about 16,000 zebrafish genes at any particular time, after exposing them to cancer-causing toxins, drugs or hormones. So, we will be able to see how different genes react in liver cancer,' he said.

Apart from research, the project aims to train more than 20 PhD and master's students, as well as a dozen post-doctoral students. Associate Professor Gong Zhiyuan, from the NUS department of biological sciences, is an expert who has been working with zebrafish for seven years.

He has produced transgenic red, green, yellow and orange fish with fluorescent genes from jellyfish and sea anemones, which can be used as warning markers to glow in the presence of pollutants or cancer-causing toxins, for example. 'The beauty of the zebrafish lies in it being transparent... we can see exactly what happens when we manipulate its genes. We're at the forefront of such research, which should answer a lot of questions about why liver cancer occurs and how to prevent or treat it,' he said.

It shares many of the same genes as humans, so work on the zebrafish genome can shed light on how the same genes work in humans. The 2.5-cm fish can be kept and bred in the lab. The facilities at the National University of Singapore house some 2,000 fish. Each fish has a lifespan of about two years. After maturity at three months, the female fish lays more than 200 eggs a week. As it is transparent, researchers can study the embryo development with ease, unlike with other popular experimental animals such as mice and rats.

In recent years, scientists have started using the zebrafish to study human diseases, including mutant genes that cause blood and kidney disorders. Singapore already has more than 10 years of expertise in working with the zebrafish. Researchers have been able to produce transgenic fish - those with genes from other animals - which could be used to detect cancer-causing agents or environmental pollution by emitting a glow.

Despite more than 300 million years separating the last common ancestor of the human and fish, many substances which cause cancer in humans also cause cancer in zebrafish, and it is likely that cancer develops the same way in both species. The Singapore group is the first in the world to use the zebrafish to study liver cancer.

(Cybernews, 7/2/02)

## **Cell Type "Crucial" in Causing Asthma Identified** By Philip Cohen

New drugs that target cells lining the airways to the lung could help relieve dangerous asthma symptoms, work on mice suggests. David Erle of the University of California, San Francisco and colleagues discovered that genetic activation of this one cell type in mice was enough to trigger airway

constriction and mucus overproduction, both of which can lead to breathing difficulties.

While asthma sufferers also experience other symptoms, such as airway inflammation and tissue damage to the lung, those do not appear to be caused by the same cells. "This allows us to strip asthma down into different processes," says Erle. "That might make it much easier to study and develop new treatments." And because the implicated cells are located in airways, he points out they are ideal targets for inhaled drugs.

Airway epithelia had not been in the centre of asthma research before, says Peter Par   of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. "Standard thinking was that inflammatory cells were driving all the pathology," he says. "This says we need to take a look at these other cells. It's a real paradigm shift."

The immune system of asthma patients pumps out a variety of interleukins - chemicals that bind cells and can vastly alter their genetic activity. One interleukin known as IL-13 can elicit all the symptoms of asthma when inhaled by mice, suggesting it plays a key role in the disease. But it was not clear exactly how IL-13 produced these effects. To pinpoint where IL-13 was acting, Erle and his colleagues took advantage of the fact that only cells that produce another protein, called STAT6, are able to react to IL-13. They genetically engineered genes for both molecules so that they only switched on in the epithelial cells that line the airways to the lung.

"These cells produce mucus, so we suspected they may play a role," says Erle. Sure enough, when both genes were active in these cells, the mice have hyperreactive airways and produced excessive amounts of mucus. If the STAT6 gene was inactivated, the mice were not effected by IL-13 at all. However, the mice did not develop inflammation or damage to the lung tissue, meaning those effects of IL-13 must involve another cell type.

That leaves the puzzle of whether asthma patients would benefit most from blocking both IL-13 pathways or whether one would suffice. "It's a good question and a hot topic for future study," says Erle.

(Nature Medicine, 7/1/02)

### **Animal-Rights Fanatics: Doctor Dolittle Gone Bad** By David Martosko

Seattle downtowners experienced a wave of fear last Wednesday as military-style smoke grenades were set off on the upper levels of two skyscrapers. Could this be the latest al-Qaida plot hatched someplace far overseas? Hardly. It appears to be the work of an extreme fringe of the animal rights movement right here in the U.S. Their target was the insurance provider of Huntingdon Life Sciences, a well-known research facility that uses animals to find cures for diseases such as breast cancer and Parkinson's.

Shocking? Absolutely. Criminal? Definitely. Surprising? Not to those who have been paying attention to the violent tendencies of today's animal rights zealots. Judging by the teachings of their own annual convention, held two weeks ago near our nation's capital, perhaps we should expect more of this sort of thing in coming months.

Today, sensible goals of animal protection have been twisted into hideous extremism, or what the FBI calls "special-interest domestic terrorism." It's as if Hugh Lofting's Doctor Dolittle has mutated into Ian Fleming's Doctor No. We got a brief, scary look into this world June 28-July 3 as nearly a thousand self-anointed spokespersons for the non-human animal kingdom converged to plan the future of the crusade that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals executive Bruce Friedrich recently called "the most important social movement in history."

This is the same Friedrich who told last year's convention: "It would be a great thing if all of these fast-food outlets, these slaughterhouses, these laboratories, and the banks that fund them exploded tomorrow. I think it's perfectly appropriate for people to take bricks and toss them through the windows, and everything else along the line. Hallelujah to the people who are willing to do it." For this he earned a standing ovation.

Then again, no one could have expected much reasonable discussion from this lot. The widely promoted schedule of this year's "Animal Rights 2002" event included panel discussions about the use of "physical threats" and on the nuts and bolts of handling "arson gone bad." This, of course, presumes that there's such a thing as "arson gone good." In the context of animal rights violence by FBI-certified terrorist groups such as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), which was responsible for over \$17 million in damages during 2001 alone, those who plunked down \$180 at the door were probably not all that shocked by workshops on the value of "lying, cheating, stealing," or debates centered on the question of "what tactics," if any, "should be off-limits." The event's organizers even held two consecutive panels titled "Getting Attention (legally)" and "Getting Attention (otherwise)."

The rising stars of this national disgrace include a wide variety of convicted criminals, a few of whom accepted invitations to speak to the assembled activists. PETA's Friedrich is just one example of those who have personally spent time behind bars. Kevin Jonas, a young activist who has been an official "spokesperson" for ALF, made several appearances. The convention program described Jonas' first appearance as a discussion of "economic and peer pressure" and "physical threats."

These days, Jonas runs the U.S. arm of a British animal-rights group called Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), which is dedicated to, in their words, "crushing" and

"destroying" Huntingdon Life Sciences. Jonas boasted to this year's convention-goers that his group is "going to take them out, one by one, after Huntingdon." In the United Kingdom, his organization has already embraced the baseball-bat approach to conflict resolution, literally, in a bloody assault on Huntingdon's CEO. SHAC has issued physical threats to elderly women, destroyed automobiles, committed grand theft, and vandalized homes and office buildings. These kinds of activities are, of course, usually conducted under the cowardly cover of anonymity, but ALF and SHAC supporters are fond of covertly distributing videotapes of their crimes, showing disguised perpetrators hard at work. The "Animals Rights 2002" convention actually showed at least four such films.

Of course, the animal-rights convention wasn't all about bombs, death threats and beatings. There were also lectures on ways to reach young kids with these sorts of messages, as well as deep philosophical discussions ("Your Son or the Rat? Whose Life Do We Value?"), and even a practical roundtable on ways to "deal with adversaries."

The animal rights movement isn't just about fuzzy bunnies and baby seals anymore. Depending on the day of the week, an animal-rights target might be a restaurant, a research lab, a veal farm, a circus, a supermarket, or even an insurance company. But no matter who wears the bull's-eye next, chances are the plan was hatched at this year's "Animal Rights 2002" convention. Doctor Dolittle beware.

(Seattle Times, 7/15/02)

### **New TB Vaccine Will Begin Tests By End of Year** By Susan Okie

Preliminary testing of a new tuberculosis vaccine in humans is expected to begin by the end of this year, experts said yesterday. The planned safety trial would mark the first time in about 80 years that a new

vaccine has been tested against the tuberculosis bacterium, which infects an estimated one-third of the world's population.

In the past decade, there has been a resurgence of scientific effort and international funding to fight TB, which kills about 2 million people worldwide each year, according to health officials and researchers who spoke to reporters yesterday at the Fourth World Congress on Tuberculosis. However, bacterial strains that resist treatment with existing drugs are becoming increasingly prevalent, making the development of new drugs and vaccines essential to controlling the epidemic. "We won't even begin to approach the goal of elimination of TB as a global health problem without developing new tools," said Philip Hopewell of the University of California at San Francisco.

There were 15,989 cases of TB reported in the United States last year, half of them among people born in other countries. Tuberculosis infection may remain dormant in the lungs for many years, often for a lifetime. In 5% to 10% of those infected, the disease becomes active, usually causing fever, night sweats and coughing that can transmit the bacteria to others.

Someone with active TB must take medicines daily for six to nine months to halt progression of the disease. The World Health Organization has spearheaded an approach called DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) to ensure that people with TB take their drugs faithfully, which increases cure rates and prevents emergence of resistant strains. But despite expansion of the strategy, especially in China and India, where one-third of TB deaths occur, currently only 27% of the world's TB cases are detected and treated within DOTS programs, Hopewell said.

People whose immune systems have been damaged by HIV infection are especially vulnerable to TB, which is a major cause of death among such individuals, especially in developing countries. Although a full course of

TB treatment costs only \$10, not enough money is available to find and treat all active TB cases worldwide, said Jong-Wook Lee of the World Health Organization. "The gap is \$300 million" annually, he said.

About 15% of funds from the new Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria have been allocated to tuberculosis detection and treatment, said Kenneth Castro of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is also funding efforts to develop new vaccines, drugs and tests for TB.

The recent decoding of the genetic sequence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the TB bacterium, represents a potential breakthrough for development of new drugs and vaccines, said Douglas Young of London's Imperial College. One discovery stemming from new genetic knowledge is that of isocitrate lyase, an enzyme that TB bacteria apparently need to maintain themselves even when they are quiescent. Current drugs against the disease can kill the bacteria only when they are multiplying. A drug that blocked the action of the enzyme might work better and faster than current treatments, Young suggested.

The TB vaccine slated for testing in humans later this year is a new version of BCG, a partially effective vaccine introduced 80 years ago. BCG is widely used in developing countries to prevent severe TB in childhood. Developed by California researcher Marcus Horwitz, the new vaccine is genetically engineered to prompt production of a specific bacterial protein that has been found to protect mice from the disease, said Carol Nacy of the Rockville-based Sequella Foundation. The clinical trial, currently planned to take place in San Francisco, would test the vaccine's safety, she said.

Other vaccines being developed may be used to boost the immune systems of TB-infected individuals to reduce their likelihood of developing active disease, or as an adjunct to drug treatment to prevent relapses, Nacy said.

"We are not anywhere convinced that any of the vaccines [about to undergo] testing in humans today are going to be the vaccine," she said. "We simply have no way to know what is going to work."

(Washington Post, 6/3/02)

### **FROM NABR: HLS Withdraws from RICO Lawsuit Against SHAC -Declares Success in Obtaining Protective Measures -**

Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) has withdrawn from the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) lawsuit it filed against Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) in conjunction with the Stephens Group and its investment banking subsidiary, Stephens, Inc. in April, 2001. Stephens, which first filed the RICO suit against

#### **How has animal research helped lung disease?**

In the 1950's, research revealed that a crucial internal coating in the lung is essential for normal breathing. This discovery led to the development of therapy for infantile respiratory distress. Studies have added insight into mechanisms of lung destruction and led to the discovery of cromolyn sodium, the first asthma-preventative drug.

#### **Is animal research still needed?**

Researchers, using rodents, guinea pigs, dogs and monkeys are currently exploring lung disease without risking human life. Animals are being studied by researchers to devise new ways of controlling asthma and the new disease, AIDS pneumonia and are essential in studies to determine why certain chemicals provoke asthma attacks. New substances are also being tested on animals to find less toxic drugs than those now available for asthmatic patients. Studies of emphysema in rabbits and horses - species that develop emphysema "spontaneously" - are revealing the natural stages of development of this disease and promise new ways to prevent it.

SHAC and other animal rights groups to protect its employees, withdrew from the suit earlier this

month after divesting from HLS this past January. HLS believes that SHAC's targeting of HLS employees, both at home and work, has been neutralized due to a number of state and federal court decisions over the past year. They include separate injunctions signed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, which placed restrictions throughout the state on demonstrations at HLS headquarters, and at employee homes. On July 13, 2001, 25 animal rights activists were arrested at a protest outside the home of a Huntingdon employee in North Brunswick for violating demonstration restrictions.

Federal court orders have also restricted individuals and groups that target HLS. On December 3, 2001, U.S. District Court Judge Joseph E. Irenas signed a nation-wide protest ban against SHAC USA's founder, as well as the California-based In Defense of Animals (IDA), which prohibited them from participating in demonstrations within 5 miles of HLS, its employees, customers, suppliers, or business associates. On December 20, Judge Irenas also enjoined IDA from providing any financial support to individuals or groups targeting HLS, or participating in any protests or demonstrations related to HLS.

"We are pleased with the sanctions we have obtained," said Michael Caulfield, general manager of Huntingdon's US operation. "The restrictions currently in place go well beyond what we had set out to achieve when we joined Stephens in the RICO lawsuit. We will continue to utilize all available means to protect our legal right to conduct our business, which is essential to the development of new medicines. We are also encouraged that the U.S. Congress has begun to seriously consider measures aimed at stemming the recent rise in criminal acts that have been committed by groups and individuals claiming to be concerned with animal rights and environmental issues."

**Woman Threatens HLS Workers, Gets 180 Hours of Community Service** - In a related story, the *Western Mail and Echo*, a British publication, reports that Sharon Hazelden, a volunteer environmental worker, sent threatening text messages through her mobile phone to other mobile phones belonging to various Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) workers, ten of whom received the message:

"You animal torturer. We know where you live and what car you drive. Be very vigilant when you go to work in the morning. You never know when your car is going to go boom." Hazelden, 35, admitted to ten charges of threatening to commit criminal damage, and was sentenced to 180 hours of community service in the Cardiff Crown Court. She obtained the mobile phone numbers from literature handed out by the animal rights group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). The attorney who defended Hazelden, Leunan Rees, claimed that her actions amounted to ".....ten minutes of madness." Hazelden claimed she was sorry and very regretful, although that may ring hollow to the families she terrorized.

**ALF Members Sentenced in Belgium** - Expatica.com reports that in Antwerp, Belgium, three members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) were sentenced to jail on June 25th. Two were sentenced to three years in prison after being found guilty of arson attacks against fast food restaurants and meat companies, but they have served most of it in remand custody, so they may soon be released. A third ALF member was sentenced to 30 months in prison, with 20 months suspended. Later this year the Antwerp court will try the ALF on charges of being a criminal organization.

(NABR Update, 7/12/02)

**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR  
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