

Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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

website: <http://www.swaabr.org/cfaar/index.htm>

Volume 12, Number 4

Editor: Grace Aranda (antrnweb@ahsc.arizona.edu)

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**

Ignore Lies about Animal Research

Robert C. Speth is a professor of Pharmacology & Neuroscience at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University in Pullman and adjunct professor of Physiology & Pharmacology at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. He is a past president of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics.

It is unfortunate to see a retired science teacher relaying the litany of lies and rhetoric of the animal rights movement, as in Don Steinke's Aug. 30 local view, "Animal research cruel, unnecessary." What the animal rights movement doesn't want the public to know is that advances such as water purification and sewage treatment arose from the animal experiments of Pasteur and Koch. They showed that germs were the agents that transmitted infectious diseases.

Steinke's comment that our use of penicillin was not based on animal research is another inaccuracy rampant in animal rights literature. In what might be one of the most famous experiments ever done, Sir Howard Florey in 1940 used eight mice to demonstrate that penicillin cured streptococcal infections. This Nobel prize-winning discovery led to the use of penicillin in World War II, which saved the lives of countless soldiers.

As for Charles Mayo, who retired from his medical practice in 1919, he specified that earnings of the Mayo Clinic be used for medical education and research. Today part of the Mayo Clinic's mission statement is to "conduct basic and clinical research programs to improve patient care and to benefit society." The institution now invests nearly \$300 million into animal and human research programs.

Another animal rightist distortion parroted by Steinke is that animal testing of drugs poses a danger to humans. Medical history refutes the animal rightists. Thalidomide caused one of the worst drug-induced disasters upon humanity because it was not adequately tested on animals. Only after thousands of deformed babies were born was the proper animal testing done. It showed that thalidomide was teratogenic (a cause of birth defects). Thalidomide was not approved for morning sickness in the United States because Food and Drug Administration inspector Frances Kelsey required it to be tested on pregnant animals.

A major reason thalidomide was not approved for use in the United States was because of a disaster that led to the federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938. In 1937, an antibacterial (sulfanilamide) was dissolved in an antifreeze solvent (diethylene glycol) and given to children who subsequently died because diethylene glycol is toxic to the kidneys. This law led to safety testing of substances in animals prior to their use in humans. It has undoubtedly saved us from countless similar disasters. For further information on U.S drug legislation, go to the FDA's Web site: www.fda.gov. This should also serve as a timely reminder of the need to properly store and dispose of antifreeze because cats and dogs will seek out this sweet-tasting lethal substance.

The animal rights movement suffers from deep corruption. The dishonesty and ignorance of the animal rights movement threatens the health and welfare of the millions of animals whose lives benefit from the symbiotic relationship we have with animals. The movement would have us stop doing animal research today, knowing fully that this will interfere with the development of cures for such threats as the West Nile virus disease, which causes suffering and death in human and animal populations.

When you hear stories of animal abuse from animal rightists, ask whether they accurately represent animal usage. There are millions of examples of humane animal use that animal rightists ignore, focusing only on rare incidents of animal abuse. Using their criteria, we should also abolish police departments based on a videotape showing excessive force; we should abolish democracy if a public official violates the law; and we should abolish parenthood if a child is abused.

Clearly such changes would lead to anarchy and destroy our society.

(The Columbian , 9/9/02)

Ebola Vaccine Will Enter Human Trials Within Months By Alicia Ault

A vaccine against the Ebola virus should move into human clinical studies within the next 6 to 8 months, a National Institutes of Health official said Thursday. Addressing reporters here at a meeting of the World Medical Association, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), said that studies testing the vaccine in chimpanzees had recently been completed, clearing the way to start safety trials in healthy human volunteers. Fauci said, the Ebola research had been able to move ahead quickly partly because of the post-September 11 multi-billion dollar infusion of funds to combat bioterrorism. Ebola was moved ahead in the research queue because "it was one of the high impact, likely probability microbes" that might be used in a bioterrorism attack, Fauci said. He also noted that NIAID scientists have been studying Ebola for years, hoping to unravel the virus' mechanisms of action.

The vaccine is being developed in tandem with Crucell NV, a small Dutch biotechnology company. NIAID researchers are providing the Ebola genes that are being used in the vaccine, and Crucell has the exclusive license to sell the vaccine. Fauci was asked by reporters what the government was doing to encourage private drug and biotech companies to develop vaccines and therapies against bioterror agents, considering that the return on investment was very unpredictable. "My feeling has been all along that we need to create a market," said Fauci, who agreed that there was no clear return for manufacturers. The federal government could commit to buy a guaranteed amount of a product, he said, adding that this strategy "certainly is something that is under consideration" by Bush Administration officials.

(Washington Post, 10/3/02)

Genetic Findings in Monkey Herpes Virus Could Aid Research in Human Cancer By Leslie H. Lang

For the first time, scientists at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have discovered similar gene activity profiles between a herpes virus that affects rhesus macaque monkeys and a human herpes virus linked to Kaposi's sarcoma. This cancer is endemic among Mediterranean and sub-Sahara African populations. In the last 20 years, however, the disease has occurred most frequently in people with AIDS.

The study team, led by Dr. Blossom Damania, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at UNC's School of Medicine and a member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, also has identified three new genes in the rhesus monkey rhadinovirus that show high structural similarity to those in human herpesvirus-8, also known as Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus, or KSHV.

The new research, which appears in the *Journal of Virology* on Tuesday (Oct. 1), lays the foundation for future studies using recombinant rhesus viruses that could eventually form the basis of targeted drug therapies against specific KSHV genes. Researchers in microbial genetics use recombinant technology to study the effect of altered genes on the life cycle of viruses linked to human disease. These studies require large quantities of virus grown in tissue culture, which is a problem with the human virus, KSHV, because it cannot be cultured efficiently.

Damania said the simian virus can grow to very high titers in tissue culture and then be grown in large quantities. These can be used in making recombinant viruses for testing in a rhesus macaque model. "By developing this model, we can determine the genes that are important for virus survival, viral growth and replication, and genes that enable the virus to induce malignancies in its host. Once you've established the genes that are required to do all of these things, you can start thinking about developing drug therapies against these genes to prevent virus spread and to prevent the virus from inducing cancer in its host. So there is potential for developing at least two drug therapies at this point in time."

The scientific literature suggests that less than 10% of people in the Western Hemisphere are infected with KSHV; however, these percentages are currently under investigation. But around the Mediterranean, particularly Italy, Spain, Egypt and Greece, the percentage is between 25% and 40%. And then there is sub-Saharan Africa, where the infected population is greater than 50%, Damania said. "The problem is very bad because of the HIV epidemic," Damania added. "It's known that immune suppression is a factor. Whether you're HIV-infected or a transplant patient taking immunosuppressive drugs or a patient undergoing chemotherapy, you are more likely to develop Kaposi's sarcoma. In sub-Saharan Africa, many children 6 years of age develop Kaposi's with very bad lesions. It's the number-one childhood cancer in this region primarily as a result of widespread HIV infection in the area."

KSHV is also associated with B-cell lymphomas, a type of blood cancer. "Although Kaposi's sarcoma is the most common cancer linked to KSHV, many individuals frequently develop B-cell lymphomas, as well," Damania said. "At the present time, most herpes viruses cannot be cured but their outbreak can be prevented. And so the best we can hope for at this point in time is an effective preventive strategy rather than a cure. Our research will help move us toward identifying potentially better therapies." Along with Damania, co-authors of the report are Scott M. DeWire, a graduate student in UNC's curriculum in genetics and molecular biology; and Dr. Michael A. McVoy at the Medical College of Virginia. Support for the research came from the National Cancer Institute, the UNC Center for AIDS Research and the American Heart Association.

(UNC School of Med, 9/30/02)

Jeers Greet Task Force Decision By Maxine Bernstein

After a four-hour public hearing, the City Council on Thursday night unanimously voted to renew Portland police participation in the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force amid jeers of "Shame on you!" and "Kangaroo council!" More than 65

people, before packed council chambers, urged city commissioners to halt police participation in the multiagency task force, fearful that police will trample civil liberties and abuse their authority without independent oversight.

Opponents wore bright pink and green stickers that read, "Stop the Lying, Stop the Spying." Some heckled and hissed at Police Chief Mark Kroeker and labeled others "fascists" when they spoke in favor of the task force work. At one point, opponents sang as activist Kathleen Juergens strummed a guitar and led the crowd in a chorus of "We're the JTTF, We make war on the Left!" By 6:15 p.m., when city commissioners tried to explain their vote at the end of the acrimonious hearing, several were cut off by shouts from the crowd and simply gave up and uttered a quick "aye" vote.

Commissioners said they approved the one-year renewal of the task force despite their own reservations about the lack of local oversight. However, they said they support proposed legislation that would increase congressional oversight of anti-terrorism task forces across the nation and strengthen oversight of the FBI by the U.S. Department of Justice's inspector general. Commissioner Erik Sten also drafted a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft this week, asking that either Portland's mayor, an Oregon judge or Oregon's attorney general be granted authority to review the task force files. "I am hoping that with a modest shift we can preserve the value of the FBI's intelligence while helping to ensure full compliance with Oregon law," Sten wrote.

A 1981 state law prohibits police from collecting or maintaining information about the political, religious or social views of any individual or group unless the information is part of a criminal investigation, and reasonable grounds exist to suspect criminal conduct. Mayor Vera Katz, police commissioner, said she has asked Kroeker to seek clearance from the FBI for him, at least, to review the files. "My hope is that we can make some of those changes," Katz said. Portland's task force, created in 1997, has grown to encompass more than 15 agencies and 40 members. It is one of 56 nationwide. The entire Portland Police Bureau's Criminal Intelligence Division - a lieutenant, a sergeant, five officers and an administrative clerk - is assigned to it.

While a deputy city attorney and the director of Portland's Independent Police Review

Division audit the intelligence division's files quarterly, they do not have authority to review any reports that are part of the federal task force. Charles Matthews III, the FBI's special agent in charge of the Portland office, said the task force has fostered communication between local, state and federal law enforcement in its efforts to deter terrorism and prosecute those responsible for terrorist acts. Sen. Ron Wyden, who sits on the Senate's intelligence committee, may have access to the files if he requests, Matthews said.

In a presentation on the need for the task force, Kroeker displayed photos of the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes against the World Trade Center and Pentagon, highlighted eco-terrorism arsons in 2001 in Oregon and the Sept. 5 arrest of a Portland Islamic religious leader, Sheik Mohamed Kariye, on Social Security fraud charges. "I ask that you strengthen our resolve to protect Portland and its people," Kroeker said. But law enforcement assurances to comply with state law are not sufficient, activists and civil libertarians argued. They highlighted the recent discovery of decades-old Portland police intelligence files found in a former officer's barn that included newspaper clippings, photos and reports on people, including Katz, and political and social groups that had no criminal connections in the 1960s, '70s and early '80s.

Dave Fidanque, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, said without meaningful oversight of police actions, the city is "doomed to repeat the errors of the past." He urged the city to "step out front," seek stronger oversight for its task force and ensure all federal intelligence files that no longer are active be purged. If you take the Oregon laws seriously, you should not allow Oregon police officers under your watch to create files that you have no access to," Fidanque said.

Among those who voiced their opposition to the task force were members of the Japanese American Citizens League; the Oregon Sierra Club; the League of Women Voters; Portland's Dignity Village, a homeless camp; and unions. In an atmosphere of increased national anxiety in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, critics said they worried about inappropriate police profiling of innocent people and Ashcroft's relaxing of investigative guidelines for terrorist investigations. "Terrorism has become the new catch-all label for dissidence," said Barbara Dudley, a professor

with Portland State University's Mark Hatfield School of Government.

Kayse Jama, a Portland resident from Somalia, said he was scared to speak out Thursday but told the council that he fears his community's due process rights are being violated by aggressive law enforcement tactics. At times, Katz struggled to gain control of the hearing, telling those assembled, "I'm not going to have demonstrations in this chamber!" Afterward, Katz said she was disappointed by the behavior of those who attended the hearing, adding, "I'm surprised at the fact a lot of the people were talking about freedom and democracy but would not allow other people to speak, but showed rude and crude behavior."

(The Oregonian, 9/20/02)

Dog Is Ruled Property, Not 'Companion,' in N.Y.

A woman whose dog died of a drug overdose caused by a mislabeled prescription can't sue the local pharmacy for "loss of companionship," a state appeals court ruled. That's because a pet is considered property in New York and is only worth its market value, the state Supreme Court Appellate Division said Thursday. The ruling reversed last year's finding by state Supreme Court Justice John Connor, who said Iris Lewis could recoup the value of her pet's friendship if she won her case.

But Lewis, 45, of Accord in Ulster County, plans to proceed with her March 2000 lawsuit against two pharmacists and the Eckerd drugstore in Stone Ridge, 60 miles south of Albany. She is also suing Eckerd Corp. and its parent company J.C. Penney. Lewis' dog, Emily, died in November 1997 after ingesting too much of the anti-inflammation drug Feldene. Lewis had given the dog "one pill twice daily," as directed on the prescription bottle. But her veterinarian had called for one pill every other day, according to court records.

Lewis plans to pursue the lawsuit as a personal injury case, seeking an unspecified amount in punitive damages. Lewis hopes to win at least enough money to cover the dog's \$12,000 intensive care medical bills and her lawyers' legal

costs. Lewis, who is single, said she considered the dog her family. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has joined the case, which has already received national attention. Lewis said Eckerd offered her money, but she turned it down, calling the offer "insulting." Eckerd lawyer John Walsh called the suit "litigation out of control." In New York, he argued, people can't even sue for loss of companionship for a human being.

(NY Times, 6/1/02)

Drug Could Stave Off vCJD

By Debora MacKenzie

New evidence suggests that some drugs might prolong the notoriously lengthy incubation period of vCJD, the human form of mad cow disease - perhaps extending it sufficiently for the sickness to never take hold in a human lifetime. Millions of Europeans who have eaten BSE-infected meat could be harbouring vCJD. A key reason scientists do not know is the very fact that vCJD takes so long to develop.

Hans Kretzschmar and colleagues at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich infected mice with scrapie, a disease related to BSE. Some were also injected with a string of six nucleotide bases called CpG oligodeoxynucleotide 1826. The mice that did not get the nucleotide all developed lethal scrapie 180 days later. But the mice that received the treatment for four days after the scrapie injection did not develop the disease for 250 days, nearly a 40 per cent increase in the incubation time. What is more, mice which got the drug for 20 days still showed no sign of disease 330 days later.

It remains to be seen whether the treatment prevents infection over a longer period, the researchers warn. But their findings are consistent with similarly prolonged incubation periods obtained with polyanions that have similar effects on the immune system - but the nucleotides may be less toxic. One nucleotide is currently in clinical trials for boosting non-specific immunity in humans. But the new research's relevance to vCJD depends on how the drug works.

These nucleotides, perhaps because they look like nucleic acid-laden viruses, turn on the

"innate" immune system. This is comprised of macrophages and other cells that simply gobble up intruders, or present them to the "adaptive" immune system, which makes antibodies and the like, for more sophisticated handling. The prion molecule thought to cause these diseases does not provoke adaptive immunity. The nucleotide might jostle the innate immune cells into presenting prion more insistently to the adaptive system. "But we don't know if we have any antibodies (to prion) in our mice", says Kretzschmar.

More likely, says George Carlson of the McLaughlin Research Institute in Montana, the treatment stimulates macrophages to gobble up the prion before it can get inside other immune cells, called dendritic cells, to replicate, an essential step before it can invade the brain. Or it might slow down its replication. That would be more promising for any potential treatment for people already infected, he says, because it involves a later stage in incubation. The most immediate use for these compounds might be when we know exactly when infection occurred. "If I was a pathologist and cut myself while examining someone who died of vCJD," says Carlson, "I'd take it."

(New Scientist, 7/19/02)

Monkey Think, Monkey Do in Brain Experiment By Maggie Fox

Monkeys implanted with special electrodes moved a cursor on a computer screen just by thinking about it, and learned how to do it better with practice, scientists reported on Thursday. The experiment could eventually lead to the development of better prosthetic limbs for amputees and might even offer a way for paralyzed patients to move again. "They were able to move balls around, by thinking about it, in three-dimensional space," said Andrew Schwartz, a neural physiologist at Arizona State University who led the study. The new field, called neuroprosthetics, is small but active. In March, a team at Brown University in Rhode Island reported similar research in the journal *Nature*.

In Schwartz's experiment, each tiny electrode was attached to a single neuron in the motor cortex, the part of the brain where

movement is controlled. Two rhesus macaque monkeys were fitted with 50 to 100 electrodes, which consisted of minuscule wires about half the width of a human hair. The monkeys had been trained to play a computer game, at first using their arms, in which they had to move virtual balls around a three-dimensional virtual space. After the appropriate neurons were mapped, they were fitted with electrodes that sent signals to the computer. "We basically strapped the animals' arms down so they couldn't use their arms," Schwartz said. At first the monkeys strained to use their arms but as they learned their thoughts alone could move the cursor on the screen, they stopped trying to move.

Writing in the journal *Science*, Schwartz's team said what was new in the latest experiment was the addition of a "feedback loop" that helped the monkeys, and the computers, learn how to make the virtual movements more accurate. "They learn to get better and better at this," Schwartz said. This means fewer electrodes are needed to achieve more precise movement. "Their performance is approaching that of what we can get when they move their own arms," Schwartz said.

Schwartz said the monkeys do not feel pain from the electrodes and have been trained to work in return for a simple drink of water. "They get used to it and they work at it until they get tired. (Then) they stop working and just sit there," Schwartz said. Schwartz said it will be a long time before the technique can be tried out in people. "Right now the electrodes we are using are not really appropriate for human use," Schwartz said. "They don't work every time." The electrodes also cause some scarring that may eventually affect their performance.

Although patients likely to want to try the method first may be desperate, Schwartz said regulators would not be willing to approve major brain surgery unless it was clear it was safe. If he were paralyzed, Schwartz said, he would overlook the risk. "If I had my druthers, I'd do it," he said. At least one person has. Dr. Phil Kennedy, chief executive officer of Neural Signals in Atlanta, implanted two glass electrodes into the brain of a quadriplegic man. The patient was able to move a cursor across a computer screen. But it took great effort and weeks of training.

(Washington Post, 6/6/02)

FBI Investigates SHAC Posting of Social Security Numbers on Website

The *Edmond Sun* reports that the FBI is "actively investigating" the animal rights group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) for their continuing practice of posting social security numbers of their "targets" on their website. SHAC's latest campaign focuses on Legacy Trading in Edmond, Oklahoma, a company that trades Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) stock. The *Edmond Sun* article notes that SHAC has not been successful in forcing a stockbroker in the office to stop trading the stock, despite bombarding his office with hundreds of harassing phone calls every day, often with the refrain "You're a (expletive) puppy killer!"

SHAC has thus resorted to harassing the stockbroker's neighbors, first by posting their names and addresses on the website, and then by posting their social security numbers (SSN). After speaking with the *Edmond Sun*, SHAC spokesperson Kevin Jonas claimed that the neighbors' SSNs had been removed, but as of the writing of this article, the stockbroker's SSN was still posted. Jonas maintains that SHAC does not endorse posting personal information on their website, and is simply passing on second-hand information. SHAC activists were recently charged with stalking, and even though the group denied it, many have assumed a connection to an activist and his death threats against a financial executive.

This SSN issue is also being tackled by Congress. In May of 2001 Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA) introduced S. 848, the Social Security Number Misuse Prevention Act of 2001 that would prohibit the display, sale or purchase of SSN's, except where they are needed for public health, national security, or law enforcement purposes (including fraud investigations). It would prohibit any person from: displaying any other person's SSN to the general public without the expressed consent of that individual; selling or purchasing another's SSN without consent; and obtaining any other person's SSN for the purpose of locating or identifying someone with the intent to harm that person. Those convicted of violating any of these prohibitions would be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation; and/or a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000 if the

violations have occurred with such frequency as to constitute a general business practice. S. 848 has one co-sponsor and has been referred to the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy. A summary of this bill is included in the latest version of NABR's Animal Research Policy Summary which NABR members can access on our website.

SHAC Waiver Petition Denied - Demonstration Restrictions to Continue

The petition by the animal rights activist group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) for a one-day waiver of court-imposed demonstration restrictions, was denied by New Jersey Superior Court Judge Roger Mahon. SHAC sought the waiver so that activists could "celebrate" Huntingdon's 50th anniversary on December 1. Judge Mahon also agreed to a Huntingdon motion to extend police notification period for any future demonstrations from 24 to 72 hours.

(NABR Update, 10/11/02)

Help Support CFAAR - Join Today

So We Can Continue to Support You

Check out our new website at
www.swaebr.org/cfaar/index.htm

**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR
2003 Membership Application**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: (Campus, if available) _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Electronic Mail: _____ Send me my newsletter electronically _____
(In an attempt to reduce the cost of printing we hope to send most newsletters electronically.)

Institutional Affiliation (if any): _____

Faculty ()

Staff ()

Student ()

Other ()

I have enclosed a contribution of \$10__ \$20__ \$50__ \$100__ Other _____

A years subscription to CFAAR News is included with your donation.

Make checks payable to **CFAAR** and return to: **CFAAR**, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ, 85721

CFAAR ARIZONA

University of Arizona

P.O. Box 210101

Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

Address Correction Requested

212810

Please join AZ CFAAR Today!

**Your Donations Make Our Publications Possible
We Hope To Get A Website Up & Running with Your Donations**