



Coalition For Animals & Animal Research CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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

Vol 16, No 3 Editor: Grace Aranda (antrnweb@ahsc.arizona.edu)

Time to Join or Renew Your Membership

To Join Arizona CFAAR, or to renew your membership, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Your donations publish our newsletter and educational materials and will be used to expand our webpages. A year's subscription is included with your contribution.

In this issue...

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Animal Activists Sentenced</i> | 1 |
| <i>Targeting the Testers: Animal Rights Activists Move Beyond Fur and the Circus</i> | 2 |
| <i>Hershey Researcher Modest about Role in Developing Cancer Vaccine</i> ... | 5 |
| <i>Mouse Model For Muscle Disease Developed by Researchers</i> | 7 |
| <i>Biotechnology Moves Closer To Replacing Electronic Pacemakers</i> | 7 |
| <i>Researchers Report New Molecule that Targets Leukemia Cells</i> | 8 |
| <i>Researchers Discover Potential Approach to Treating Diabetes</i> | 8 |
| <i>Recognize the Need for Animals in Medical Research</i> | 9 |
| <i>Proposed Testing Facility in Chandler Sparks Demonstration</i> | 11 |
| <i>Dobson Family in Covance Battle</i> | 12 |
| <i>Become a Friend of SwAEBR</i> | 12 |
| <i>Membership Application</i> | 13 |

Animal Activists Sentenced

By Ted Agres

A federal judge has sentenced three animal rights activists to four to six years in prison and ordered them to help pay more than \$1 million in restitution for inciting violence and terror against Huntingdon Life Sciences, a contract research organization in the U.S. and U.K. that has long been the target of militant animal rights groups. Three other defendants await sentencing within the next two weeks.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Anne E. Thompson in Trenton, NJ, sentenced Kevin Kjonaas, former president of Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA Inc. (SHAC-USA), to 72 months in jail. Lauren Gazzola, SHAC-USA's former campaign coordinator, was sentenced to 52 months, while Jacob Conroy, who served as the group's coordinator and Web site manager, got 48 months. Each will be on three years of supervised probation after serving their terms. As the group's former leader, Kjonaas was ordered to serve a minimum of 60 months in jail.

SHAC-USA, as an organization, was ordered to pay about \$1 million in restitution, fined \$2,400, and placed on five years of probation. Because the organization is considered virtually defunct, the three defendants are required to participate in paying the restitution. "On behalf of the dozens of victims whose lives were turned upside-down by the actions of these activists, we are gratified by these sentencings," Mike Caulfield, Huntingdon Life Sciences-USA (HLS-USA) general manager, told *The Scientist*.

Six SHAC members had been found guilty in March of various counts relating to animal enterprise terrorism, conspiracy, interstate stalking, and other crimes against employees and officers of HLS-USA in East Millstone, NJ. It was the first prosecution under the [Animal Enterprise Protection Act](#), a 1992 law that was expanded in 2002 to equate acts of harassment and intimidation with terrorism. Joshua Harper, SHAC's West Coast coordinator, who was found guilty of two counts, is scheduled to be sentenced today, while Andrew Stepanian and Darius Fullmer, who were each found guilty of one count, will be sentenced next week.

HLS victims testified their homes had been vandalized and their cars overturned. SHAC and its organizers routinely posted personal information about

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.

CFAAR chapters share the following objectives:

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

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**

HLS employees on the Internet, including the names and ages of their children and where the children attended school. Defense lawyers unsuccessfully argued that the SHAC members had merely been exercising free speech. Kjonaas's lawyer, Robert Stahl, said the convictions would be appealed.

SHAC claimed on a Web site it runs about the trial that the case "is the latest in an onslaught of attacks against domestic dissidents (sic) under the guise of fighting terrorism" and "is intended to pave the way for further silencing of activists involved in all issues."

Jacque Calnan, president of [Americans for Medical Progress](#), a research advocacy group, told *The Scientist* that she is pleased with the sentences. "But we need additional legislation to cover future cases in which scientists, research companies, business partners, and their families can all be protected against a conspiracy of violence, such as this one was," she said.

Last week, Senators James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced a bill (S 3880) to expand protection for researchers by outlawing economic damage against "animal enterprises," which include organizations involved in academic and commercial research and testing. The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, as it is called, also provides a graduated scale of prison time and fines for those found guilty of harassing, intimidating, trespassing against or vandalizing the property of anyone associated with animal research. "Our bipartisan legislation will provide law enforcement the tools they need to adequately combat radical animal rights extremists who commit violent acts against innocent people because they work with animals," said Inhofe, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which held two hearings on the topic this year. "This is terrorism and must not be tolerated," Inhofe said in a [statement](#) last week.

The new bill is a substitute for pending legislation ([S 1926](#) and [HR 4239](#)), but has been amended to address free speech and other concerns. Similar in some ways to legislation regulating protests at abortion clinics, the new bill expressly protects such First Amendment activities as peaceful picketing, demonstrations, and "lawful boycotts" against animal enterprises. It also substitutes life imprisonment for the death penalty should an offense result in the death of an individual.

Inhofe and Feinstein are seeking to streamline passage of their new bill before Congress adjourns at the end of the month. An Inhofe aide told *The Scientist* that staffers plan to make the House and Senate versions of the new bill identical to avoid having to reconcile differences later.

(The Scientist, 9/13/06)

Targeting the Testers: Animal Rights Activists Move Beyond Fur and the Circus by Aina Hunter

By the end of the month, a small band of animal rights activists could be sentenced to a maximum of

seven years in federal prison after having been found guilty of conspiracy and harassment. In a conviction as groundbreaking as the methods employed by their group—Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty U.S.—the so-called SHAC Six are the first people ever to be convicted of violating the 15-year-old Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which imposes stiff penalties for the disruption of animal-testing labs, fur farms, zoos, and the like.

The 20- and 30-year-olds—personified by leader Kevin Kjonaas, a bouncy, 120-pound vegan—didn't break into labs or hurt anyone, but Judge Anne Thompson of the U.S. District Court of New Jersey in Trenton ruled that they used their website to promote vandalism. The judge also ruled that the demos staged in front of executives' homes (which, according to court transcripts, often resulted in verbally abusive confrontations) had the effect of putting people in "reasonable fear of injury or death." Over the objections of the defense, U.S. Attorney Charles McKenna successfully linked the New Jersey group to a British animal rights group of the same name, which, in turn, was once linked to pipe bombings and an assault.

SHAC U.S. was formed to put Huntingdon Life Sciences— one of the world's largest private research companies that test products on animals—out of business, and though the SHAC Six are no more, a local group says it's picked up where SHAC left off. Ever since the indictment, members of Win Animal Rights (WAR) have been badgering New York industry executives who do business with Huntingdon by staging toned-down but SHAC-style demos in front of apartments where these decision makers live. "What SHAC did that was revolutionary is they used business strategy to affect business," says Camille Hawkins, the 53-year-old co-founder of WAR. "They analyzed the company and everything they needed to exist— investors, insurance, banks, securities, an auditor." Then, according to court documents, SHAC targeted them all, intimidating (or shaming, depending on who is being asked) heavyweights like Schwab, E*Trade, Deloitte & Touche, Aetna, Bank of America— all of whom severed ties with the lab.

On a recent Sunday afternoon Hawkins, dressed like a gym teacher, in baseball cap and sunglasses, leads about 10 members of WAR on one of their weekly tours. This time it's of Upper East Side buildings that five executives from Pfizer and Glasko Smith Kline call home. Some of the doormen and security guards grin—they're more than familiar with the group. At 72nd Street and First Avenue, members unfurl their enormous banner depicting a bloody beagle puppy and start in: "Vivisection really sucks! Puppies die for corporate bucks!"

Hawkins, who has been arrested three times for disorderly conduct and violating a court injunction (so far two of the three cases have been dismissed, says lawyer Len Egert) tries to reason with a few annoyed neighbors from an adjacent building. "They don't just test drugs. They've tested Splenda, agricultural chemicals. They're not trying to find the cure for cancer in there—" A slender mortgage broker in fashionable eyewear interrupts to ask why the group didn't just go to the company headquarters or something: "You're punishing a whole block for the actions of one individual!" "Besides," shrugs an older

woman after Hawkins leaves, "We all own stock in Pfizer, so where does that leave us?"

WAR's relentless and noisy demos may not make them popular, but they're part of a relatively new and effective method of disruption, say Wall Street insiders. Last September, New York Stock Exchange president Catherine Kinney announced that although Huntingdon met the fiscal requirements for being listed on the Big Board, the NYSE had changed its mind—Huntingdon's listing was to be indefinitely postponed. British newspaper headlines screamed foul and blamed the NYSE for caving in to pressure from animal rights extremists, and Huntingdon lawyer Mark Bibi told London's *Daily Mail* that SHAC "had succeeded where Osama bin Laden had failed." New York activists received the news with glee.

To grassroots activists like Hawkins, it was a score of biblical proportions, one born of a strategy never used so effectively against an industry. Before hearing the SHAC Six speak at a Washington, D.C., conference, Hawkins and other like-minded people scattered their free time among various animal causes. "With a lot of us it was fur in the winter, the circus in the spring," says Hawkins. But SHAC's strategy of focusing on just one corporate target and hitting it relentlessly in the money belt made sense to the former human resources consultant.

After about 15 minutes at the 72nd Street address, Hawkins moved her crew to a building on 73rd off Second Avenue. That's when things got exciting. No sooner had the group raised its puppy banner than buckets of cold water poured down from a second-floor window. WAR co-founder Greg Kelly, a tattooed 30-year-old with neo-tribal ear plugs and a quick grin, entered the lobby to drop off their signature "information packet."

Later he said he was shoved out by a doorman, but a woman holding a dog on a tiny leash said Kelly shoved her, and an orgy of cell phone calls to 911 ensued, both sides claiming assault. There was a sidewalk shouting match, Hawkins shrieked that she'd been spat on, WAR began its call-and-response protest chant, and a shirtless man leaning out of a window from a building across the street, white face and chest framed in spider plants, screamed over and over that the protesters should just shut ... up.

Twenty minutes later Hawkins's group left for the final site, shouting that because they'd been abused they'd be back, next time at a more inconvenient hour. "I can't wait!" bellowed the shirtless man. Four irate residents remained outside, fuming. "It's been five minutes and there's no sirens or anything!" said the woman with the little dog. "Five minutes!" "It's outrageous," said another.

The police may have been delayed, but WAR says they have little to fear from the cops. "SHAC got caught up in a lot of very aggressive actions," says Kelly. "[The prosecution] found a notebook at Kevin's house with notes about the ALF [the Animal Liberation Front, an underground group that has been linked to violence] and a poster at someone's apartment of

[Huntingdon executive Brian] Cass all bloody." (Cass was attacked by British activists in 2001.)

WAR, he says, tells doormen who they are before they start yelling, and they keep their demos short, clean, and on point. Now that the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act has bared its teeth, they've changed their message from "Shut Down Huntingdon" to "Make Huntingdon Stop Testing on Animals."

Yet testing on animals is all Huntingdon does, and executive director Mike Caulfield says his corporation does nothing he's ashamed of. He points to the lab's 20 years of certification by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International—a nonprofit organization that labs voluntarily pay for inspection.

Not surprisingly, that means little to WAR, which points to civil actions such as a lawsuit recently refiled against Huntingdon by the New Jersey SPCA alleging violations of the Animal Welfare Act (one standout example from court documents charges that a technician sliced a "howling, writhing" beagle puppy down the middle for no clear scientific purpose) to explain why the New Jersey lab is worse than other animal-testing labs.

Still, it's no secret that, like SHAC, WAR's long-term goal is to get the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to abandon animal testing altogether and that they're in it for the long haul. While SHAC was still being tried, WAR held its demos every other Sunday outside of a Huntingdon exec's Upper West Side apartment. "It was February, it was so cold," says one activist. "We want people to see that we are passionate, so that they will try and understand what drives us to care so much."

(Village Voice, 6/20/06)

Molotov Cocktail Incident Probed

Device possibly made by animal rights activists failed to ignite and was left at the wrong house. Investigators with the Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force say they are trying to track down the would-be arsonist or arsonists who tried to set off a crude incendiary device at a home in Bel-Air.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said the task force is investigating the case as "an act of domestic terrorism." She provided few details about the device, saying only that it resembled those that have been used by animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists.

Authorities said the arson attempt appears to have been botched in two ways: The device failed to ignite, and it apparently was planted at the wrong home. It was left beside a house occupied by a 70-year-old woman and her tenant, described as a middle-aged man.

Arson investigators with the Los Angeles Fire Department found the device on June 30 after receiving a tip. But neither they nor other terrorism task force members disclosed the incident until Wednesday, the day after an animal rights website reported that the Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attempt.

The website, run by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, said the Animal Liberation Front

"took credit" for leaving a Molotov cocktail on the porch of the home of a UCLA psychiatry professor who studies primate behavior. The website portrayed the professor as a "primate vivisector."

The Animal Liberation Front has been linked by the FBI to fire bombings and vandalism causing millions of dollars in damage and is considered by federal authorities as a domestic terrorist organization. Authorities are offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for the crime. The FBI may be reached 24 hours a day at (310) 477-6565. Those with information also can contact their local law enforcement agency.

(LA Times, 7/13/06)

Chancellor Taking Steps to Protect UCLA

By Rebecca Trounson and Joe Mozingo

UCLA's acting chancellor said he is taking steps to protect the university and its faculty from extremists in the animal-rights movement, after an attempted firebombing near the home of one UCLA researcher and repeated harassment that pushed another professor to halt his primate research. Norman Abrams, who became acting chancellor July 1, said animal-rights activists in recent months have mounted what he called an escalating campaign against University of California, Los Angeles, professors, researchers and their families. "These activities have risen to the level of domestic terrorism, and that's what we should call them," Abrams said Friday, as he announced a series of actions, including plans for stepped-up security at faculty homes.

He also said UCLA would double — to \$60,000 — the reward the FBI has offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the attempted firebombing of a Bel-Air home June 30. In that incident, a crude explosive was left beside a house occupied by a 70-year-old woman and her tenant. The FBI has said the device, which failed to ignite, was powerful enough to have killed the occupants. It also was apparently planted at the wrong house. The intended target was Lynn Fairbanks, a UCLA professor in the departments of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences who studies primate behavior. "On the night of June 30, we paid a visit to Lynn Fairbanks' home," read a message posted to the Web site of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, which often acts as a voice for the underground Animal Liberation Front and other extremist animal-rights groups.

The posting said she conducted "painful addiction experiments" on monkeys. Fairbanks said Friday that the activists' allegations were false. She focuses on primate behavior and the ways vervet monkeys interact with one another, she said. "I don't do invasive research; I don't kill or torture animals," said Fairbanks, who has worked at UCLA for 30 years.

Also, Abrams and other UCLA officials have said university researchers strictly follow federal laws

that regulate the use of animals and ensure that they are treated humanely. They said that all research projects involving animals are subjected to a rigorous application and review process and that federal and state agencies regularly inspect such projects.

Abrams said the Bel-Air incident, along with the decision this month by neurobiology professor Dario Ringach to stop his primate research after several years of harassment and threats to his family, led to the announcement. Abrams said he was deeply saddened by Ringach's decision, describing him as a promising professor, doing significant — and, the chancellor emphasized, legal — research.

Ringach, whose work involved studies of the brain and the ways it receives information from the retina, sent an e-mail Aug. 4 to the Animal Liberation Press Office. Posted on the Web site, the e-mail reads, in part: "You win. Effective immediately, I am no longer doing animal research."

Despite that decision, Abrams stressed that UCLA remained committed to pursuing biomedical research involving animals, saying it has been central to advances in medical knowledge. About 750 researchers on the campus are involved in about 950 animal-research projects, a UCLA spokesman said.

Abrams said the tactics employed by the activists against Ringach and others at UCLA have included explicit threats against the researchers and their families; repeated, late-night phone calls; noisy demonstrations at their homes and labs; leafleting of their neighborhoods, and vandalism. Their names and addresses have been publicized on various Web sites, with memos inviting activists to take action against them. Abrams said such actions fall outside areas of free speech protected by the First Amendment.

The acting chancellor outlined the steps he plans to take. The measures include:

- Trying to act more quickly to warn researchers of possible threats.
- Beefing up security, including trying to cut the response time of campus and local law enforcement to incidents or threats at researchers' homes.
- Exploring legal actions that might be taken against the activists, including possible civil lawsuits by the university.
- Tying to help shape the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, legislation under consideration in Congress that advocates say would help law enforcement combat extremists. Abrams said he hoped the legislation would include civil remedies, perhaps modeled on laws employed to file suit against anti-abortion activists who have used violence.

(Seattle Times, 8/27/06)

Hershey Researcher Modest about Role in Developing Cancer Vaccine

By Susan E. Lindt

It's hard to believe the jackalope has anything to do with cancer. Still, a photo of the mythical beast — an antlered cottontail rabbit — hangs right there in a research lab at Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey. Neil D.

Christensen seems to take pleasure in drawing the connection between the jackalope and his own research.

It turns out the jackalope isn't entirely mythical — and in the real-life version, those aren't antlers at all. More disturbingly, Christensen said, they're giant warts amazingly similar in cellular composition to the human genital wart caused by some forms of human papillomavirus, the most common sexually-transmitted disease. HPV shows up in 75 percent of sexually active women at some point in their lives.

Those HPV warts cause precancerous changes in the cervical tissue of about 10 percent of women. And about 8 percent of those women will develop early cancer. Left untreated, the lesions may become invasive cancer, making HPV the estimated cause of three of every four cervical cancer cases.

Given all that, the new vaccine to prevent cervical cancer is nothing short of revolutionary. Not only is it the first method of preventing cancer ever developed, much of it happened right around the corner, at Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey. "I would never say I discovered a vaccine for cervical cancer," said Neil D. Christensen, a soft-spoken research scientist with an engaging New Zealand accent. "You don't set up and say 'I'm going to come up with a cervical cancer vaccine.' That's pretty arrogant and pretty hopeless."

Fair enough, especially in a field where taking too much credit can forever mark a scientist, as Jonas Salk discovered when he was shunned from his own research community for not recognizing hundreds of researchers who contributed over several decades to the discovery of a polio vaccine.

Christensen was just 30 in 1984 when he started working under his mentor, Dr. John W. Kreider. In his Hershey lab, Kreider already was in the midst of researching HPV and its connection to cervical cancer, the secondmost common cancer in women and the third deadliest in the world. "The biomedical research building was just a dream then," Christensen said, looking out the huge hallway windows of the biomed building, overlooking miles of rolling hills.

Back in the '80s, Kreider was looking for ways to grow human genital warts on mice — an essential step in the development of potential preventative vaccines. Christensen had finished his studies in New Zealand and was looking for a postdoctoral position in Europe or Canada. There were none, but through the grapevine, Kreider heard of Christensen and invited him to join his team based on the campus of Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Christensen already was on board when Kreider's "mouse model" became reality. Successfully growing the warts on mice would create antibodies that could be used to test the effectiveness of potential vaccines developed by other organizations. "With the mouse model in place, I started the research with John, looking at antibodies," Christensen said. "We looked at what was effective in inactivation and neutralization of the virus."

Kreider holds the patent on the mouse model that eventually was used to test potential vaccines. That gave him more involvement with the successful vaccine's development and mass production than university-based research scientists typically have.

Suddenly, or so it seemed to the rest of us, Merck's television ads explaining the connection between HPV and cervical cancer hit the airwaves, and thousands of media outlets reported the vaccine's approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. But Christensen saw the vaccine coming for a long time. "It's funny from the insider point of view to see it advertised on TV," he said. "All of us on the inside knew this was on its way five or six years ago as it went to clinical trials. We went to the meetings where the information is given out and we heard data on the trials. It's not something that happened overnight. It probably took 20 to 30 years ... but I think that's pretty decent for a cervical cancer vaccine."

HPV's connection to cervical cancer was hugely beneficial in the vaccine's development. Unlike most cancers, cervical cancer has a direct cause: warts caused by HPV. Christensen said even the link between smoking and lung cancer isn't as clear, because not all smokers develop lung cancer. But knowing HPV was the trigger to cervical cancer made developing an effective vaccine quicker. "The lay public looks at cancer as a single disease, but it's not," he said. "It grows in lots of different parts of the body, and all those cancers have different types of behavior that all need different treatment. But that connection between HPV and cervical cancer cut through a lot of research."

In an ironic twist, the fact that cervical cancer is linked to a sexually transmitted disease has made the vaccine less than a godsend to some.

Merck's Gardasil vaccine was approved in June after just six months' review by the FDA, which recommends the vaccine for all females from age 9 to 26 — that is, before they become sexually active. Some conservative groups speculate widespread vaccination will cause sexual promiscuity in girls who mistakenly believe the vaccine makes all sex safe. "The idea that you increase people's risks because of a vaccine makes no sense," Christensen said. "To me, it's an issue of protection against a cancer. It's a no-brainer. Maybe that's because I know more about it, but you can't just crawl in a hole and pretend none of these things happen. I have daughters, and I'd be more than willing for them to take the vaccine."

Kreider has since retired, leaving the work he started to Christensen, who continues researching HPV with a new eye toward a therapeutic vaccine to prevent cancer in women who already have HPV. "Now we need to work on a vaccine that recognizes and destroys the wart once someone already has HPV," Christensen said. "We're looking for a T-cell response — attackers that take care of infected cells."

Will it come in Christensen's lifetime? "I hope so," he said. Christensen is remarkably low-key about his role in developing a vaccine that could all but wipe out cervical cancer and prevent the spread of HPV's most menacing

strains. It's nearly impossible to get a rise out of him beyond a quiet, "Pretty cool, huh?"

But Christensen does concede a chain of events leading to truly spectacular medical breakthroughs is rare and, well, truly spectacular — perhaps more so for medical researchers, who often spend entire careers working behind the scenes without the kind of public success that makes the nightly news. "You can't plan this," he said. "All these pieces come together, and you look back and you say, 'Wow, that was pretty neat stuff.'"

(Lancasteronline.com, 8/31/06)

Mouse Model For Muscle Disease Developed by Researchers

Researchers from the University of Minnesota have identified the importance of a gene critical to normal muscle function, resulting in a new mouse model for a poorly understood muscle disease in humans. Through techniques in genetic engineering, the researchers "knocked out" the gene in mice that encodes the protein gamma actin, which is a protein found in normal muscle cells. Scientists previously thought that if this gene were absent, muscle development would be seriously impaired. But, James Ervasti, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics, and his team found that knocking out gamma actin still allowed for muscle formation in the mice, but impaired muscle cell function, ultimately leading to muscle cell death.

Now researchers have a mouse model for centronuclear myopathy, a very poorly understood muscle disease similar to muscular dystrophy that is characterized by generalized muscle weakness and cramps. The research is published in the September issue of the journal *Developmental Cell*.

Gamma actin is a protein that plays an important role in giving muscle cells structure. It binds to dystrophin, a protein in muscle cells that if absent, causes Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a severe form of MD that effects primarily males and results in early death.

Originally, Ervasti thought that when they knocked out the gamma actin gene, the mice would exhibit symptoms similar to Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Instead, when the mice were born, they exhibited symptoms of centronuclear myopathy. "The availability of this mouse model will provide new insight into a puzzling human muscle disease," according to Kevin Sonnemann, Ph.D., lead author and research associate in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics.

Now that they know how the lack of the gamma actin gene affects the mice, the researchers will look into the mechanism that causes the muscle cells to die.

This discovery also gives geneticists who study degenerative muscle diseases a new target to study centronuclear myopathy in humans. Since Ervasti's group has identified a likely gene in the mice,

geneticists can screen their patients for that specific gene, instead of screening all 30,000 genes to find the mutation.

(Medical News Today, 9/7/06)

Seeking Cure for Pets, Humans

By Alison Walker-Baird

Faced with recurrences of cancer, patients who have exhausted their options may turn to clinical trials for help. A new breed of patients is playing a role in cancer research, in an approach known as comparative oncology. Pet dogs that have developed naturally occurring cancers are participating in clinical trials so researchers can learn more about treating similar cancers in humans.

These pets -- like thousands of human cancer patients enrolled in clinical trials -- are helping develop more effective cancer drugs for future human and canine cancer patients. These studies also help the dogs by providing new treatment options for their cancers.

The research is being conducted by the Comparative Oncology Program, part of the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute. The cancer center is headquartered in Frederick and Bethesda. Dr. Chand Khanna, head of the COP, is leading the research on the genetics and biology of cancer in dogs with Dr. Melissa Paoloni and program manager Christina Mazcko.

While cancer studies have traditionally used mice, treating dogs with naturally occurring cancers can teach us a lot about human cancers, Dr. Khanna said. Though mice are and will continue to be important models for cancer research, he said, dogs provide an important link between testing drugs in mice and in humans. Spontaneous cancers in dogs mimic human development of cancer in humans, Dr. Khanna said, and can be more useful in studying cancer's biology than laboratory-induced cancers in mice alone. Cancers' similar behavior in dogs and humans makes dogs a suitable model for human cancer, Dr. Khanna said. Humans are closer genetically and in size to dogs, and dogs naturally develop some of the same cancers as humans, he said.

Studying if and why new therapies reduce cancers in dogs serves a dual purpose, Dr. Khanna said -- finding therapies that could be useful in humans and using those drugs to fight cancer for dogs themselves. "If you can say why a drug worked or didn't work (in dogs), you can take that information to the same drug used in people," he said.

Of 28 veterinary teaching hospitals in the United States, 13 are affiliated with the comparative oncology program and form the Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium. When a pet dog is diagnosed with cancer, its owners may be referred to a participating veterinary school and may have the option of enrolling their dog in the clinical trial.

Differences exist between some human and canine cancers, Dr. Khanna said, such as breast and colon cancers. However, he said, many of these cancers have common features researchers can study.

Osteosarcoma is the most common bone cancer in dogs, Dr. Paoloni said. Among humans, osteosarcoma is also the most common bone cancer and a prevalent cancer in children. Osteosarcoma behaves similarly in humans and dogs and is the subject of the Comparative Oncology Program's current genetic study. "With our genetic studies, we now have a basis of comparison we didn't have previously," Dr. Paoloni said.

One consortium trial began in March and the first of two parts ends Friday. It is the first of three clinical trials for cancer treatments planned in 2006, Ms. Mazcko said. Four veterinary schools are participating in the first trial, including those at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Missouri, and Colorado State University. In the study, 22 dogs are being treated for certain cancer types, including osteosarcoma.

Much like human clinical trials, the dog trials help researchers and drug developers answer questions about how often a patient should take a drug, what dosage is most effective and how often a tumor should be tested for any response to the drug. The researchers are studying whether the cancer-fighting agent TNF alpha is effectively targeting tumor cells without damaging healthy organs, as well as what dosing schedule is best. Preliminary data on the drug's effectiveness is encouraging, Dr. Paoloni said.

Owners enroll their dogs for a variety of reasons, similar to patients' motivations for joining human clinical trials, Dr. Khanna said. Some can't afford conventional medical options and are looking for a less expensive way to treat their dog's cancer. In the comparative oncology study, owners pay for pre-eligibility screening, which can cost a few hundred dollars, but treatment and expenses associated with participating are free.

Other owners may enroll because no treatments have been successful against their dog's cancer or a treatment's side effects have become intolerable. The comparative oncology team said owners often enroll their dogs with the goal of helping others. Owners recognize that the osteosarcoma study could help their own dogs, other dogs or even children with cancer, Dr. Khanna said. These factors have led to an excellent follow-up rate -- even better than in most human clinical trials -- and no drop-outs so far. "Pet owners are highly motivated to participate," Dr. Khanna said. "They feel a greater responsibility to participate in a broader perspective."

(Frederick News Post, 8/31/06)

Biotechnology Moves Closer To Replacing Electronic Pacemakers

UC Davis researchers have successfully used a custom designed protein and gene delivery system to restore normal heart rhythms in pigs with electronic pacemakers, reducing their dependence on implanted devices. This work suggests that scientists are one step

closer to making bioengineering a reality in treating the more than 2.2 million Americans affected by irregular heartbeats.

The UC Davis study, which was co-authored by an international team that included scientists from the University of Hong Kong and Johns Hopkins University, is published in the current issue of the journal *Circulation*. The same issue also includes a similar but independent research effort by scientists from Columbia University and State University of New York at Stony Brook. "Our study offers positive and direct evidence in living models that bioengineered cells can replace the electronic pacemaker," said Ronald Li, who leads the research team and is an associate professor of cell biology and human anatomy at the UC Davis School of Medicine. More than 250,000 people in the United States get artificial pacemakers implanted each year. Researchers believe this biological approach would provide a more permanent, reliable and less invasive alternative to implanted electronic devices. "Our hope is to one day replace electronic pacemakers in people," Li said.

Li and his colleagues have been working for years to develop biological alternatives to drugs and electronic devices for treating heart arrhythmias - heartbeats that are irregular in rhythm, rate or sequence. The sinoatrial (SA) node, a patch of cells called the pacemaker, generates cardiac rhythms for coordinated contractions and blood pumping. Malfunctions due to aging or diseases can lead to a range of potentially lethal arrhythmias, such as slow heart rates or rhythms called bradycardias.

In the current study, the researchers delivered a gene encoding a bioengineered cell-surface protein to heart muscle cells of pigs. This protein mimics the combined action of several proteins called HCN ion channels, which play a critical role in maintaining a normal, evenly paced heartbeat. These channels control the flow of sodium and potassium ions in and out of cells that regulate the electrical impulses of the heart. "These channels are critical to normal heart function. We were able to make one protein that codes for a single channel that does the work normally required by several," Li explained.

By getting heart muscle cells to produce bioengineered HCN channels, Li and his colleagues were able to reconstruct the SA node of the heart in pigs with implanted electronic pacemakers. The SA node is normally located on the right atrium, the upper right chamber of the heart that receives deoxygenated blood from the body. "We were even able to create new pacemaker regions on the left atrium," Li said.

According to Li, the current study moves research beyond using animal models such as mice and rats, whose hearts can beat up to 600 times per minute. Large animals such as pigs make for far more realistic models because their anatomy and physiology, including average heart rates of about 70 to 80 beats per minute, are similar to humans.

In the current study, researchers used radiofrequency ablation to remove the SA nodes in pigs' hearts. This is the same minimally invasive technique cardiologists use in clinics to destroy the heart cells that

cause abnormal electrical discharges and rapid heart rates in their patients. To restore the SA node function and evaluate the bioengineered cells, Li's team then implanted electronic cardiac pacemakers like those used in humans and injected an adenovirus carrying a gene encoding for the engineered HCN protein into the heart muscle. Adenovirus has the ability to deliver its own genes into a host cell and hijack its protein-synthesizing machinery. Scientists use this ability to deliver genes of interest into cells.

In a matter of days following the gene transfer, the pigs' hearts had generated bioartificial nodes at the injection sites. Li explained that, through gene expression, normal muscle cells of the heart were converted into pacemaker cells by a process called transdifferentiation. Studies done two weeks after the injections showed the new nodes were able to take over pacemaking function from the electronic devices. The results also have implications for future stem cell research.

Li and his colleagues are now preparing to do long-term, follow-up experiments. UC Davis offers a unique environment for this work to be continued through eventual testing in humans, Li said. "It is a place where we can do the basic laboratory science, test in animal models, utilize the only non-human primate facility in California and eventually partner with physicians at the UC Davis Health System to treat patients," he said.

Li and his team previously generated the first genetically engineered human heart cells from human embryonic stem cells, and demonstrated that they can be transplanted into a recipient heart and function normally. Li plans to combine stem cells and protein/cell engineering approaches to the treatment of heart arrhythmias. "Heart cells do not normally regenerate, but we now have the technologies to make new human heart cells using stem cells. And, we can also customize these cells to treat diseases," he said.

(Medical News Today, 8/26/06)

Researchers Report New Molecule That Targets Leukemia And Lymphoma Cells

UC Davis Cancer Center researchers have developed a novel peptide that binds to the surface of leukemia and lymphoma cells with extremely high affinity, specificity and stability, and demonstrates remarkable promise as a tool to help image tumors and deliver anti-cancer drugs. The research is reported in the July issue of *Nature Chemical Biology*. "We believe that this peptide has great potential for becoming a new, effective imaging and therapeutic agent for patients with lymphoid cancers," said Kit Lam, professor and chief of hematology and oncology at UC Davis Cancer Center and senior author of the paper.

The peptide – named LLP2A by Lam – binds to a receptor found on the surface of lymphocytes. In the *Nature Chemical Biology* paper, Lam reports that LLP2A is attracted specifically to malignant

lymphocytes, not healthy ones. The next step will be to evaluate the binding of LLP2A in a larger number of human lymphoma biopsy samples. If those results are positive, Lam plans to test the peptide as a lymphoma imaging agent in patients. Experiments are already under way at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to evaluate LLP2A in dogs with naturally occurring non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In addition, Lam and his colleagues have begun testing the peptide as a drug-delivery vehicle for lymphoma tumors in mice.

LLP2A is intended to work like a monoclonal antibody – but a peptide is much smaller than an antibody and has the potential to infiltrate cancer cells more successfully. Monoclonal antibodies, engineered to lock onto a specific target molecule, are used to carry radioactive isotopes or anti-cancer drugs directly to a tumor. Three monoclonal antibodies, rituximab (Rituxan), ibritumomab tiuxetan (Zevalin), and tositumomab (Bexxar), have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of B-cell lymphoma. These antibodies have drawbacks, however: They bind to healthy lymphocytes along with malignant ones; in addition, they do not bind to T cells and therefore can't be used to treat T-cell lymphoma.

In contrast, LLP2A binds to both B-cell and T-cell lymphoid cancer lines, and has low affinity for normal T or B lymphocytes. It also has lower uptake in the liver and spleen than the monoclonal antibodies now on the market for lymphoma treatment. "We believe LLP2A may be an ideal vehicle for the delivery of radionuclides, cytotoxic agents, toxins, cytokines and nanoparticles to lymphoid cancers which include non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and acute lymphocytic leukemia," Lam said.

In their paper, Lam and his colleagues report that they have already used LLP2A to successfully image lymphoid tumors in living mice. The researchers coupled near-infrared fluorescent dyes to LLP2A peptides; when the dye-tagged peptides found and locked onto a tumor, the tumor became visible to a near-infrared scanner. LLP2A was identified using a combinatorial chemistry method Lam developed more than a decade ago. Known as the "one-bead-one-compound" method, Lam's technique allows scientists to synthesize millions of novel compounds in less than a week and analyze them in a few days.

(UC Davis, 6/13/06)

Researchers Discover Potential New Approach to Treating Diabetes

Scientists have uncovered a surprising and novel way of lowering blood sugar levels in mice by manipulating the release of sugar by liver cells. The results could have implications for treating conditions like diabetes.

The discovery by researchers in Hopkins' Institute of Basic Biomedical Sciences and McKusick-Nathans Institute for Genetic Medicine reveals that a protein called GCN5 is critical for controlling a domino-like cascade of molecular events that lead to the release of sugar from

liver cells into the bloodstream. Understanding the role of GCN5 in maintaining blood sugar levels is leading to a clearer picture of how the body uses sugar and other nutrients to make, store and spend energy.

According to the research, understanding the ways that energy production and use are controlled is crucial to developing new drugs and therapies. The inability to properly regulate blood sugar levels leads to conditions like obesity and diabetes. Both type 1 and type 2 diabetes cause blood sugar levels to stay too high, which can lead to complications like blindness, kidney failure and nerve damage. "Diabetes is a really big problem, even when patients are given insulin and stay on strict diets," says Dr Charles Lerin, a postdoctoral fellow in cell biology at Hopkins and an author of the report. "In the absence of a cure for the disease, we are really trying to focus on finding better treatment because currently available methods just don't work that efficiently."

The body keeps blood sugar - known as glucose - within a narrow range. Extra glucose floating through the bloodstream, which is common after eating a meal, is captured and kept in the liver. When blood glucose runs low, the liver releases its stores back into the bloodstream. When those reserves are tapped out, liver cells turn on genes to make more glucose to fuel the body.

The research team found that GCN5 chemically alters another protein called PGC-1alpha that normally turns on a set of genes to manufacture enzymes required for glucose release. When GCN5 is fully functional in liver cells, this cascade is turned off and glucose is not released from those cells. Removal of functional GCN5 from liver cells restores the cells' ability to release glucose. The researchers showed that GCN5 alters its target, sabotaging it by adding a chemical tag called an acetyl group. By using molecules that glow fluorescently, the researchers saw under high-power microscopes that GCN5 carries its tagged target to a different location in the cell's nucleus - sequestering it away from the genes it's normally meant to turn on.

When the researchers put GCN5 into live mice, they found that it can in fact decrease blood glucose levels. Liver cells in mice that were given no food for 16 hours actively release glucose into the bloodstream. Introducing GCN5 into their livers, however, causes blood glucose levels in these mice to be reduced. "These results show that changing GCN5 is sufficient to control the sugar balance in mice," explained Dr Pere Puigserver, an assistant professor of cell biology at Hopkins. "Therefore, GCN5 has the potential to be a target for therapeutic drug design in the future."

(Pharmaceutical Business Review, 6/8/06)

Recognize the Need for Animals in Medical Research By Dr. George Poste

As a veterinarian and someone who has spent three decades in biomedical research in academia and the pharmaceutical industry, I know that animal

research saves lives. With the announcement of Covance's plans for a major drug development facility in Chandler, I am concerned by deceptive claims from extremist groups about the need for animal research.

Animal studies continue to be necessary for advancing human and animal health and have played a vital role in virtually every major medical advance. This includes life-saving drugs and vaccines, new surgical procedures and improved diagnosis of disease.

A hallmark of humanity is our ability to care about other species. It is understandably difficult for people to reconcile this empathy with support of animal studies for medical advances that cure disease and improve the quality of life.

Animal extremists prey on this discomfort and count on society's general lack of scientific insight to advance their agenda. These extremists knowingly misrepresent the ability of computers and emerging scientific techniques to serve as viable substitutes for animal studies. They know that most people do not have the expertise to know that these claims are false.

Government regulations around the world require that new drugs, vaccines and surgical implants first be tested in animals for potential toxic reactions. Beyond these formal legal requirements, research into the root causes of disease at the genetic level and how diseases become resistant to current treatments cannot be simulated by computer programs or duplicated in test tubes.

Although present day technology cannot yet replace many types of animal research, the research community is committed to finding new ways to reduce and replace animal testing. This ethical commitment is embodied in strict animal welfare protocols at most university, government and industrial laboratories.

In addition to humane considerations, the economic and logistical advantages of replacing animal testing are compelling. Animal studies are time-consuming and resource-intensive. If meaningful alternatives existed, companies could save hundreds of millions of dollars in facilities and personnel costs. Given these economic and ethical incentives, alternatives are being pursued by the research community as aggressively as possible.

Opposition to all animal testing would require a life without drugs, vaccines, painkillers, anesthetics and surgery. It would demand a rejection of all federally mandated FDA and EPA tests that ensure the safe consumption of products in our homes and workplaces, ranging from the testing of components used in computers and cellphones to plastic wraps and chemical additives in our foods and drinks. In short, it would require a lifestyle far removed from that enjoyed by most people, particularly the jet-setting celebrities who oppose animal research.

Reducing complex issues to oversimplified sound bites encourages the thinking that wearing a lapel ribbon is a substitute for education and dedication to seeking solutions. Research scientists, physicians and veterinarians face tough moral and ethical issues in this pursuit, and take these responsibilities seriously.

Concern about animal welfare can take very different forms. Some people are offended by the use of

leather and fur as fashion accessories but accept that medical research must unavoidably use animals until viable alternatives are found. Some groups argue persuasively against intensive farming practices but, again, recognize the need for animals in medical research. I recently signed a petition in Arizona calling for reform in the raising of veal calves.

My advice is that people carefully consider not just whether or not a group shares their beliefs, but whether or not they behave in an ethical manner. The tactics used by opponents of Covance in Chandler have included false claims about alternatives to animal testing and misinformation aimed at provoking community concerns about potential disasters.

Well-funded national groups often disguise their involvement to make it appear as if local citizens are leading the effort. In May, *The Arizona Republic* uncovered deceptive methods and use of false names by a leading opponent of the Chandler drug-development facility in an attempt to camouflage ties to PETA and involvement in other protest campaigns.

Of greatest concern are those who encourage violence in the name of animal activism. My family and I have been the targets of death threats, as have many of my colleagues. Several animal extremist organizations have been identified by the FBI as serious domestic terrorism threats.

PETA provides funding to the Animal Liberation Front, which is listed as a terrorist group by the governments of both the United States and the United Kingdom. A publicly available report from the FBI describes PETA as an organization that "recruits interns for the sole purpose of committing criminal acts."

In 2003, a representative of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, another national group that has been prominent in the local debate, called for the assassination of doctors whose research involves animals.

Fortunately, very few people endorse such extreme views. Surveys show that most Americans support the need for animal studies aimed at medical advances. Even as divergent as the views of animal activists and researchers may seem to be, there is agreement on one key issue: We all look forward to a day when mankind's ingenuity provides a way to completely eliminate the need for animal studies.

I have a challenge to offer to anyone who feels strongly about this topic, especially young people. If you sincerely wish to eliminate the need for animal research, put down your picket signs, learn about the subject and invent solutions. I guarantee you'll find a receptive audience in the medical research community, because it's a goal we share.

(AZ Republic, 8/18/06)

'Warm, Fuzzy' PETA Really Inhumane

As the Covance battle heats up after a long election-season hiatus, it must be remembered that those who yell the loudest are not always right, and

should not always carry the day. At this point, it is very clear which side is winning the volume contest. That would be those who oppose Covance building a medical research facility in Chandler. In that camp, most prominently, is Citizens Against Covance, which presents itself as a local grass-roots group but which has definite philosophical and organizational ties with its national big brother, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Of late, a new group has waded into the fray, a group that calls itself the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine even though only a tiny fraction of its members are physicians. This organization, too, has close ties with PETA, a radical outfit that opposes all manifestations of human supremacy over non-human species.

The Physicians Committee's contribution to the debate was an anti-Covance mailing in May to some 71,000 Chandler addresses. As a result, by early last week the city had received about 180 e-mails, of which city officials estimated 166 echoed the anti-Covance party line.

Those numbers alone, by the way, tell an interesting story. If 71,000 pieces of mail elicited 166 like-minded responses to the city, those responses represent about two-tenths of 1 percent of all that mail. Hardly a groundswell, in our book. And evidence, perhaps, that just as is the case with Wal-Mart debates and similar brouhahas, there's probably a silent majority who would be perfectly happy to see Covance come to town. In other words, a silent majority who think people, not animals, should come first.

What we need to do here is engage in some critical thinking, rather than succumb to the irrational anti-human bleating of the animal-rights crowd, some of whose members seriously believe humans possess no superiority to cats and dogs and such. Look, we love cats and dogs. They're cute, adorable and should never, ever be abused. But animals are not people. And people should come first.

Whom to believe on that point? How about the American Academy of Neurology, for one? This organization, unlike the animal-rights outfit that calls itself a Physicians Committee, is actually made up of doctors. Brain surgeons, no less. Smart people. In a brochure called *Sensitive but Sensible*, the brain surgeons say this: "Animal research has played a vital role in the cure of many devastating brain diseases in people of all ages. . . Ending animal use in medical research would needlessly slow advancements aimed at limiting human suffering and misery."

In just the field of neurology, the academy says animal research plays a key role in finding treatments for strokes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, mental retardation, epilepsy, brain and spinal cord trauma, migraine headaches and multiple sclerosis.

Opposing Covance because it uses animals in its research is to inhabit an Alice-in-Wonderland universe where priorities are turned absolutely upside down. It's to indulge in raw emotionalism against the cold, hard fact that people - precious, wonderful people - get sick and

medical advances based on animal research have helped mitigate that grim reality.

That is one truth - the inescapable core truth of this entire debate - that the anti-Covance crowd has yet to address in any of its broadsides against the company. Because they can't. Because to address it would be to unmask the harshest reality of all: That for all its warm and fuzzy talk about small animals, PETA and its allies are profoundly, fundamentally inhumane.

(AZ Republic, 6/8/06)

Proposed Testing Facility in Chandler Sparks Demonstration by James Kindle

ASU student protesters, counterprotesters and a man in a dog costume braved temperatures pushing 100 degrees, responding to the proposed building of an animal-testing facility here. About 30 protesters, including students from ASU's Animal Welfare Association and other groups, lined Arizona Avenue outside Chandler city offices to protest Covance Laboratories Inc.

The company, which tests products for pharmaceutical companies before they go to market, submitted zoning applications in July for a new testing facility. "Covance is known worldwide to be the worst for animal testing," said Erin Maupin, president of the Animal Welfare Association, holding a sign reading "Covance Killed Beagles in Tobacco Tests." Maupin, a nonprofit management and public affairs senior, said the company has a history of violating animal rights regulations, supporting the tobacco industry and importing dangerous diseases.

Covance officials did not return requests for comment, but their preliminary development plan submitted to the city of Chandler describes "perform[ing] federally mandated medical research [to ensure medicines are] safe and effective for adults, children and even pets." In the plan, the company also disputes the argument that it violates government regulations. "All medical research performed in Covance facilities is regulated and audited by the FDA and USDA to assure appropriate federal regulations are met," the plan states. Maupin said the company claims to be people-friendly, but "they're really just doing testing for whoever's the highest bidder."

According to Covance's plan, the proposed facility would rest on 38.4 acres in Chandler between Price Road and the Gila River Indian Community. About 85,000 square feet of the initial phase of building - more than half of the building's net square footage - would be used for chemical and biomedical labs.

In order to get more students to attend the demonstration, Maupin advertised the protest to her ethics class. Her classmate Jett Lowe decided to attend the protest but not on the side Maupin was hoping. He was one of five people who came in opposition to the animal-rights protesters. "I think [the protesters] are crazy," said Lowe, an English literature and philosophy junior holding a sign that read "Human Life is Greater

than Animal Life." "They make rash generalizations [and] rash assumptions on false logic," he added.

In high school, Lowe worked in a Phoenix laboratory that did testing on rats, and he said the animals he observed were treated humanely. He supported building the facility. "The jobs that [the facility] would provide would be quite beneficial to Chandler," he said. Maupin disagreed, saying the jobs would be low-paying and unappealing for the people of Chandler. "I don't know if many Chandler residents will want to be living all day long next to people that will be abusing animals," she said.

According to zoning plans, the initial development would employ 355 employees, with a potential work force of 1,200 employees. Ian Blessing, campaign coordinator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals who was on hand providing signs, said local organizations have taken a leading role in opposing the building. "We hope that Chandler residents, because of what we're doing today, will know that Covance is not the lifesaving organization they claim to be," he said.

PETA also provided a large dog costume, worn by a supporter while hacking from a fake oversized cigarette. Anji Carlson, a Phoenix waitress who heard about the demonstration from a friend, was less optimistic about the protest's effect. "When it comes down to it, it's a corporation versus a handful of protesters," she said. "I think people are more concerned with what's going to bring in money."

Maupin said her group would attend Chandler City Council meetings involving the proposed site, distribute information outside the Memorial Union on Tuesdays and Thursdays and continue to protest.

(ASU Webdevil, 8/28/06)

Dobson Family in Covance Battle

By Doug Carroll

A member of a prominent Chandler pioneer family has joined the battle between a global biotechnology firm and animal-rights activists, firing the latest shot in the form of a mass mailing sent to registered voters throughout the city. The story of Carol Dobson, 68, is told in the mailing, detailing her battle with breast cancer and her use of tamoxifen, the most commonly prescribed drug to treat breast cancer since its approval in the 1970s by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Covance Inc., which sent the mailing to about 70,000 homes in Chandler, is seeking zoning to build one of its largest facilities near Price and Germann roads. Officials for the company have said that about one-third of the operation would involve animal testing, which has drawn the ire of groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Dobson, whose cancer is in remission six years after her diagnosis, says in the mailing that "without the life-saving treatments Covance is developing, a miracle like mine may never have happened." Dobson said she was contacted by Covance about coming forward. "No one twisted my arm," said Dobson, who lives with her husband of 46 years, Dwayne Dobson, on property near

Arizona Avenue and Queen Creek Road. She said she was "a little frightened" there might be a backlash to the mailing from animal-rights people, but said she has received only positive comments so far.

Covance spokeswoman Camilla Strongin said the company has been "heavily involved with some of the leading breast cancer drugs on the market," but declined to disclose any of the drugs' names, citing a need for confidentiality. Dobson said she has three dogs and several cats and is a Phoenix Zoo member. "I love my animals, too," she said. "We're farmers and ranchers, and we don't mistreat them. We all look forward to the day when human ingenuity completely eliminates the need for animal studies."

Dobson Road and Dobson Ranch are among the many pieces of local history named for the family, which also owns herds of sheep that winter in south Chandler alfalfa fields. Dobson said she is surprised the battle between Covance and activists has become so heated. "Covance isn't going to harm us," she said.

(AZ Republic, 9/20/06)

The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research - SwAEBR

SwAEBR has been formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to educate school children, as well as the general public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in their everyday lives. The Association will disseminate information necessary to improve the public's understanding of how responsible and humane animal research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

Friends of SwAEBR

Individuals may support the Association through honorary membership known as Friends of SwAEBR. Friends are not required to pay dues, not entitled to vote, and have access to all services and programs sponsored by the Association.

How Can You Help?

Provide financial support - For general support, production of educational resources and sponsorship of the summer internship program.

Serve on our speakers bureau - Speakers are frequently requested for classroom and organization presentations. This increases the visibility of your company, SwAEBR, as well as educating the public.

Become a Friend of SwAEBR:

www.swaebr.org

Arizona CFAAR

Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

Your support will help inform the public that animal research has been, and will continue to be, essential in the struggle against disease in humans and animals. We receive no government funding and rely exclusively on private contributors to underwrite our newsletter, educational materials, alert listserv and expand our website.

CFAAR Membership Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: (Campus, if available) _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Send me my newsletter electronically: Yes ___ No ___

To reduce the cost of printing we send most newsletters electronically.

Institutional Affiliation (if any): _____

Faculty () Staff () Student () Other ()

I have enclosed a contribution of:

\$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