



# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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Vol 17, No 2 Editor: Grace Aranda (antrnweb@ahsc.arizona.edu)

## Time to Join or Renew Your Membership

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### In this issue...

Britain Battles Animal Rights Radicals .....	<a href="#">1</a>
Analysis: Animal Activists Persist in US .....	<a href="#">2</a>
Police Bracing for Biotech Protests .....	<a href="#">3</a>
In the Name of Science .....	<a href="#">4</a>
Gore to Expand to Phoenix .....	<a href="#">6</a>
Facing Trial Under Terror Law, Radical Claims a New Outlook ..	<a href="#">7</a>
Green Tea Extract Protects Against Brain Damage in New Mouse Model of Hiv-related Dementia .....	<a href="#">8</a>
Combination Treatment Stymies Breast Cancer Growth .....	<a href="#">9</a>
Covance Foes Worry over Animal Carcass Disposal .....	<a href="#">9</a>
Become a Friend of SwAEBR .....	<a href="#">10</a>

### Britain Battles Animal Rights Radicals

By Jeffrey Stinson

LONDON - Animal-loving Britain, a hotbed of animal rights extremists, is saying "enough." British police launched the nation's biggest operation against animal rights militants. Thirty-two people were arrested in a coordinated morning sweep carried out by more than 700 officers across Britain and in Belgium and the Netherlands. Those arrested are suspected of burglary, blackmail and acts of criminal intimidation against people working at or associated with university and bio-tech labs in Britain, police said.

The sweep came amid signs of a growing backlash against animal rights extremists, blamed for arson, beatings and vandalism at labs and businesses. "Animal rights extremists have conducted sustained campaigns of harassment and intimidation against the animal research industry, seeking to achieve their objectives by creating a climate of fear," says Adrian Leppard, assistant chief constable of the Kent Police, which helped coordinate the raids Tuesday.

The raids follow a shift in public opinion on this side of the Atlantic, where animal welfare has roots in the early 19th century and where animal rights activism and violence are more common than in the USA. There's growing acceptance of the need for animal testing for medical research, says John Leaman, a research director in London for the Ipsos MORI polling firm. "People have become weary of these extremist activities and tactics," he says.

Britain enacted the world's first animal-cruelty law in 1822. In 1824, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded. Today, European nations such as France and Switzerland mandate minimum grazing, pasture and roaming areas for livestock. The European Union restricts use of animals for the testing of cosmetics, drugs and pesticides. The European Union also restricts the use of hormones and genetically modified feed for farm animals.

Poorva Joshipura, European director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), says attitudes within Europe vary. The French love foie gras — goose and duck liver from birds that are force-fed to fatten them — producing and consuming 90% of the world's supply.

### 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**

Several European nations, including Denmark, Germany, Italy and Britain, ban its production as inhumane.

Britain banned fox hunting in 2004, and Queen Elizabeth faced public criticism in 2000 after she was photographed wringing the neck of a pheasant shot during a hunt. Britain has been home to large demonstrations against the use of animals in research.

Militants in Britain have targeted drug-company executives and others for attacks and intimidation:

- In 2001, the director of Europe's largest animal-testing lab, Huntingdon Life Sciences near Cambridge, was assaulted by men with ax handles.
- In 2005, the home of an executive at pharmaceutical firm GlaxoSmithKline was firebombed.
- Last year, activists threatened to publish the names of GlaxoSmithKline shareholders unless they sold their stock in the company.

Frankie Trull of the Washington-based National Association for Biomedical Research, which advocates the use of animals in research, says British activists share their tactics. "A lot of activists here (in the USA) go over there for training," she says.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation — the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act — making it a crime to use force, violence or threats against companies engaged in animal research.

In Britain, the debate about extremists' tactics intensified in January when 16-year-old Laurie Pycroft encountered animal rights activists trying to block construction of a \$35 million biomedical research lab. He and a friend marched in favor of the lab and drew support from Oxford University students, who formed the group Pro-Test in favor of animal testing. In May, British Prime Minister Tony Blair signed a petition supporting animal testing that was inspired by Pycroft's efforts.

Joshipura says PETA doesn't advocate violence on behalf of animal rights. But she says Blair effectively gave a blanket endorsement to animal testing and fed anger against the animal rights movement.

Public opinion toward the use of animals in research was shifting here before last year. In an Ipsos MORI Poll in December 2005, 75% of Britons said they condoned animal experiments for medical purposes. 52% said they trusted scientists not to cause unnecessary suffering to lab animals, compared with 39% in 2002.

Activists "really do feel backed into a corner by a government" that allows vivisection of animals for research and wants to criminalize peaceful animal rights activities, Joshipura says. "There's a serious attempt ... to silence the protesters."

Leppard, the Kent police official whose two-year investigation resulted in Tuesday's arrests, says police target only lawbreakers. "The operation is not targeting lawful animal-welfare campaigners who have every right to express their personal views on such issues," he says.

(USA Today, 5/2/07)

## Analysis: Animal Activists Persist in US

By Steve Mitchell

As U.K. and European authorities raided the homes of animal-rights extremists this week, activists in the United States were planning disruptions at next week's biotech-industry meeting in Boston.

Law-enforcement officials in England, the Netherlands and Belgium arrested 32 alleged extremists Tuesday in a two-year investigation that is one of the biggest ever conducted against animal-rights activists.

The FBI, which has said it considers animal-rights extremists the biggest domestic terrorist threat, issued a statement in support of the raids, suggesting the crackdown is also being intensified in the United States.

However, despite the FBI's efforts and a new law passed at the end of last year that allows for stiffer penalties, illegal animal-rights activity seems to be carrying on largely unabated.

In addition to the planned protests at the Biotechnology Industry Organization's meeting in Boston, animal-rights activists have been carrying out other legal protests as well as vandalism of labs, facilities and even the homes of executives of pharmaceutical firms.

The activists largely focus on Huntingdon Life Sciences -- which conducts animal tests that the advocates consider brutal and unnecessary -- and companies that do business with it.

Recent targets include the home of GlaxoSmithKline's president in Philadelphia and Torrey Pines Therapeutics in San Diego.

The FBI and groups associated with the pharmaceutical and biotech industries maintain they are only interested in stopping criminal and illegal activity, but the animal-rights groups claim law-enforcement officials are targeting legal protests and are infringing upon free-speech rights. "The whole thing is meant to chill free speech," Camille Hankins, spokeswoman for Win Animal Rights, told United Press International.

Hankins said a New York Police Department officer threatened to arrest her and stopped a legal protest her group was conducting this past weekend at the home of the New York Stock Exchange chief executive officer. Hankins said she had the entire exchange on videotape.

Although Huntingdon has obtained a restraining order against Hankins' group that limits how they can conduct protests against those who do business with the company, including financial institutions, she said they were in compliance with the terms of the order and the officer had no legal basis to prohibit their protest.

The officer ordered Hankins' group to move on to their next location, which was the home of James Robinson III, chairman of the board of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Her group chanted protests at his house and the police did not interfere, she said. Hankins said actions seeking to limit public protests will only serve to drive some activists underground to commit illegal activity.

Although she said she had no knowledge of any activists carrying out or planning to commit illegal actions, she said it's likely to happen because authorities are focused only on the above-ground activists and are

making criminal activity the only option. "It's a lot easier to do something at night, to do something anonymously," she said. "Those people are not being caught. It's the above-ground activists that are being targeted."

Jacque Calnan, president of Americans for Medical Progress, a group in Alexandria, Va., that is supported by the pharmaceutical industry, told UPI she hasn't done a quantitative analysis but hasn't seen a decrease in the activities of animal-rights activists or an increase in arrests or prosecutions. "I haven't noticed any higher or lower level," Calnan said. "It's pretty much a continuum from where we were last year."

Calnan said she is confident the updated Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act President Bush signed into law late last year "will be used widely by law enforcement to remove criminally minded animal rights activists from circulation," but she stressed that her group is not seeking to suppress legal protests.

Frankie Trull, president of the Foundation for Biomedical Research, a group supported by industry, also said she hasn't detected an increase in underground, illegal activity, but there may have been some drop-off in the targeting and harassment of individuals who work for pharmaceutical firms or other companies that are involved in animal research.

However, that may not persist and the illegal activities could even increase. "When the original act was passed in the early 1990s, stuff dropped like a rock," Trull told UPI. "Then the animal rights activists found loopholes and things got even worse. So there may be a lull in certain respects but I don't expect that to last." So far, though, nobody has been arrested under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, Trull said. "I also believe law enforcement will be extremely careful how they use it so they do not appear to be even inadvertently abusing it," she added.

Jerry Vlasak, a spokesman for the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, which distributes anonymous communiques it receives about illegal actions committed by animal-rights extremists, shares Hankins' belief law enforcement are targeting activists who are seeking to remain on the right side of the law.

Vlasak may be an example of this himself. His house was raided by the FBI and the Santa Monica Police Department last year, and, six months later, the authorities haven't pressed any charges and have refused to return computer equipment, pamphlets, books and other materials they confiscated. "They're not rounding up people doing underground actions because they don't know who they are," Vlasak told UPI.

And the illegal, underground actions appear to be continuing at the same numbers as before the passage of the AETA. "You certainly don't see a drop-off," Vlasak said. "The number of actions is at least as frequent as before, if not more so."

(UPI, 5/4/07)

## Police Bracing for Biotech Protests

By Suzanne Smalley

When 20,000 delegates, including scores of dignitaries, descend on Boston for an international biotechnology conference starting Sunday, they will be met by dozens if not hundreds of protesters and by police bracing for what could be the biggest demonstrations in the city since the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Police and protest organizers said they expect the demonstrations to be peaceful, but authorities are monitoring Internet chatter on websites frequented by anarchists and radical environmentalists from across the country, and are preparing for significant disruptions and violence.

Just in case, police have set up a block-long protest zone with room for hundreds of people across the street from the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston, which is hosting the conference, the world's largest annual gathering of corporate executives, scientists, and politicians involved in biotechnology.

During the four-day conference, State Police will provide security for a dozen or so governors who are expected to attend, and the State Department will coordinate with local officials to safeguard Queen Noor of Jordan, who is scheduled to give the keynote speech on Tuesday.

Jeffrey Joseph, a vice president of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, which is sponsoring the conference, said organizers are concerned that Boston's large concentration of universities and biotech companies will lead to more aggressive protests than at recent conferences. There were limited demonstrations in Chicago last year and in Philadelphia in 2005, though a police officer died after a heart attack during a scuffle with protesters there. The group met uneventfully in Boston in 2000. "We have been paying particular attention to Boston . . . because Boston has a unique confluence of a highly engaged academic community . . . and it is one of the top biotech centers in the world," Joseph said yesterday.

The activists, who plan a press conference tomorrow on their plans, have their own schedule of protests covering such issues as animal rights and the Boston University biological research laboratory currently under construction in the South End, where scientists will work with some of the world's most deadly viruses and bacteria. The activists also plan panel discussions on international farming, and on the topic of medicine and human rights.

Erin Ryan Fitzgerald, an organizer with the local environmental group BioJustice 2007, said that local activists have set up a meeting place for out-of-town activists in Chinatown. "They can exchange literature or throw out ideas to other groups and organize from there," Ryan said. "We care about our city and we don't want anybody getting hurt or getting put in danger." Fitzgerald said that her group does not plan to protest at the convention, but other groups are likely to do so. "It'll probably be similar to years past with the BIO -- convergence, marches, mass demonstrations," she said

in a telephone interview yesterday. "It's all pretty much peaceful, but people are pretty outraged."

James Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, said that his security officers and Boston police attended the Chicago conference last year to hone security plans and have been planning for the convention since then. He said officials are optimistic that protests will be peaceful, since there have been no major protests at recent biotech conventions. Rooney said his worst fear is a repeat of the violent demonstrations in Seattle for the 1999 World Trade Organization conference that led to the arrests of more than 600 people. A small minority among the 40,000 protesters lit fires in the streets and broke store windows.

Boston Police Superintendent Robert Dunford said that besides a march approved for Sunday afternoon to weave through Dudley Square in Roxbury, past the controversial Boston University biolab on Albany Street, and into the South End, police are also aware of an animal rights group seeking a permit for a demonstration outside the World Trade Center in South Boston on Tuesday night.

Citing operational security, Dunford would not say how many additional officers will be on duty. He said officers will not wear riot gear, but will be a visible presence on horses, bicycles, and motorcycles. He said that while there will be a major deployment of police and emergency medical workers, it will not be as extensive as during the Democratic National Convention, when officers patrolled with machine guns. Police do not plan to close any streets for the duration of the conference, he said, though there may be some temporary closures for the Sunday march. "Anyone who wants to peacefully demonstrate is welcome," he said in a telephone interview yesterday. "We will not tolerate property damage. We will not tolerate violence."

The department's main concern, he said, is violent protestors hijacking peaceful marches to wreak havoc. "BioJustice, some of the animal rights groups -- they're legitimate groups. They peacefully demonstrate," he said. "There may be some people who take advantage of that." Joseph said that his organization is covering the bulk of security costs inside the convention center, but the Boston Police Department is paying for security outside the building.

Department officials would not say how much they expect to spend. The department is talking to state officials about sharing security costs, but no agreement has been reached, Dunford said. Charles McDonald, spokesman for the Executive Office of Public Safety, declined comment yesterday. Dunford said groups hosting conventioners at private parties around town have agreed to hire police details for extra security. Unlike Massachusetts, which has not provided any financial support to the conference organizers, Illinois officials spent \$1 million to bring the conference to Chicago, Joseph said.

Dorothy Joyce, a spokeswoman for Mayor Thomas M. Menino, said that the security costs show why the city needs a meals tax. Chicago has a 2.5%

local tax and New York a 4.125% tax, she said, higher than the 1% tax Menino hopes to attach to meals. "The people coming to the city to enjoy our city should help pay for the public safety and upkeep of our city," she said.

(Boston Globe, 5/3/07)

### **In the Name of Science** By Anna Shepard

Laurie Pycroft braves the threat of letter bombs from animal-rights activists to campaign in favour of vivisection. But he's still just a teenage geek at heart. Clutching a Terry Pratchett novel and a bottle of Coke, he gives off serious teenage vibes. He rolls up considerably later than arranged, looking sheepish and dishevelled in a dark overcoat. His matted ponytail and pale skin add to the impression that he is flirting with being a Goth. Last night was a late one, he explains. He was playing computer games with a couple of friends into the small hours. "I've always been a bit of a computer geek," he confesses.

But while other 17-year-olds have only their Xbox skills to show for it, Pycroft has founded a successful pro-vivisection campaign, redefining the terms of the animal research debate and attracting the support of eminent scientists such as Robert Winston and the neurosurgeon Tipu Aziz. Just over a year ago, on a shopping trip to Oxford, Pycroft hastily scrawled a slogan on a banner demonstrating support for the city's new biomedical research lab, in answer to a protest organised by an antianimal testing group. This was the unofficial launch of ProTest, a movement he runs primarily from his bedroom, via a website and blog. A month later, he led a march of 1,000 demonstrators through Oxford calling for the right to conduct medical research on animals.

We meet in an Oxford pub where Pycroft sometimes holds ProTest meetings and settle down to discuss what made him take on the infamous antivivisection lobby and why such a bright young spark isn't bettering himself at school (he left, last year, at 16). I start with the obvious. Wasn't he terrified, given the reputation of the more radical animal rights groups for letter bombs and other scare tactics? "I was worried about reprisals when it all started up, but I felt that if I didn't do something, no else would," he says. "I don't have a wife or kids who could be targeted so I was a good person to take these people on." His parents, however, asked him to back down, as did the police who were concerned for all of their safety. He refused. When I question whether it was naivety or fearlessness that drove him on, he replies: "A bit of both, but mostly naivety."

What he calls a "pro-science" response to the animal rights network appears to be working. A few people shout "animal murderer" when he walks down the street. More often they say "well done", even buy him a drink. Another success for ProTest is the anticipated opening later this year of Oxford University's biomedical research lab on South Parks Road. While the plucky youth before me is older and more confident than the one who was first snapped waving "Humans Come First" banners, his age still dominates. "I get a bit sick of

everyone going on about how young I am," he says. "I wish people would listen to me because of my ideas, not my age." But he admits that it probably helped him to win the Great Briton Award for Campaigning, in February. This meant a posh London dinner but, he points out, no money for his work: "The animal-rights groups send me e-mails asking how much blood money the pro-animal testing pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline has paid me. And I'm thinking I haven't seen any of this blood money yet."

While the cheques might not be forthcoming, national recognition is. A portrait of Pycroft hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, alongside the *Harry Potter* star Daniel Radcliffe. He has become something of a celebrity in his home town, Swindon, where he is currently looking for a part-time job. "I will go back to college and do my A levels," he says. "Just not quite yet." He knows he'll have to return to the education system if he wants to achieve his long-term goal of studying medicine at Oxford University. "In ten years' time, I'd like to be practising medicine, studying neurology and doing a bit of research on the side." As for ProTest, an event is being planned to mark the completion of the Oxford lab.

This commitment to science runs counter to the way he was first represented by the press: a school dropout who had accidentally sparked a national movement. "It wasn't particularly random that I decided to wave a banner that day," he says. "I was pretty riled up about animal research at the time. If it hadn't been then, I'd have probably done something later."

A couple of years before Pycroft was born, his grandfather had a pig's valve implanted in his heart to combat a heart problem. He lived an extra ten years as a result. Pycroft would never have known him if it hadn't been for the operation, a relatively new one at that time. While he rejects the assumption that this neatly explains why he's so vocal about the benefits of animal research, there's no doubt it played a part. "I see it as incidental," he says. "Most people have someone in their family who has gained from animal tests; they just don't necessarily know it. Helping people to realise how much this research has contributed to society is one of the main reasons for the existence of ProTest."

From the age of 5, Pycroft, an only child, wanted to be a doctor. At 7 he designed an artificial eardrum. "It was a thin piece of rubber stretched across where the eardrum should be," he says. "In fact, it didn't work very well, but I got a trip to the local hospital to meet the head of the ear, nose and throat department out of it. He thanked me, said it was a good idea, and explained what they actually do, which involves taking a layer of the film that covers muscle behind the ear and pulling it over, so the body doesn't reject it — as it would have done mine."

Later, while most children his age were watching *Blue Peter* and squabbling over sweets, Pycroft was engrossed in biology books, learning to use a scalpel. "You learn more about how the body works by reading an anatomy book and having a go at dissection yourself than anything you're taught at school," he says.

"I used to get hearts and eyes from the butcher's. These days, they're often frozen, which is not good as it means the cells have been damaged."

He tells me that he spent lunchtimes at school doing things like that, or reading books in the library. None of which can have made him popular. "I had a few problems in that department," he admits. "I found school oppressive. I learnt pretty much nothing that I hadn't already learnt on my own. It was a waste of my time. If I could, I'd sue the education authorities for imprisoning me against my will." His verdict on the GCSE science curriculum is no less harsh. "They don't even teach you what science is. You are left with the impression that it's just what men in labs in white coats do; nobody explains that it's the process of discovering new knowledge, in all forms," he says. "Even the good experiments are stopped because of health and safety. Any good chemistry lesson needs at least one explosion, if only to get the kids involved." Pycroft often talks about his peers as "kids" as if he were decades older than them, although that's probably how he feels.

Did he get the "animal murderer" label in the classroom? "Plenty of people disagreed with me. Others were surprised when I told them the facts. That 90% of all animals used in testing are rodents; that they are bred on site, not snatched from the wild, and that there are only small numbers used in research — 2.8 million every year — compared to how many are killed by the meat industry or on the roads."

Once Pycroft gets going on something, he is persuasive and frighteningly articulate, firing out facts and figures, as you might expect from someone invited to be a member of the National Academy of Gifted and Talented Youth at the age of 13. His enjoyment of debunking common myths with logic and science is obvious. At times, though, I suspect that he enjoys being controversial for the sake of it. He goes on about his support for the legalisation of firearms in Britain, insisting that, statistically, gun crime goes down when you give people the right to defend themselves. After that, he moves on to a more convincing argument about GM foods and how they have the potential to save lives in developing countries.

Then we get into a bit of a debate about the link between skunk, a super-strength variety of cannabis, and mental illness. He says cannabis-induced psychosis is a media invention and that smoking skunk is no more likely to send you potty than too much alcohol. I realise how young he is, if he thinks that this is the case. He freely admits to smoking weed occasionally, something that he feels is "pretty normal". While he goes off on a "cannabis is as safe as water" rant, I get a taste of how determined he is to put his views across. "I never form an opinion until I have enough facts to know I'm right," he later tells me. Typical scientist. Still, he remains a polite, likeable chap, even in full flow. He says he gets on with people better now than he used to. The internet has allowed him to meet like-minded people and he has had a girlfriend for 18 months; they met at a summer school for "bright" children.

There is no doubt that Pycroft has given science a boost and put animal-rights activism in retreat, but this past year has also given him a focus, helping him to be accepted by his peers. When I ask if he wishes that everyone his age was as engaged as him, he looks thoughtful for a moment and then replies: "No, because then I wouldn't be something special." *To find out more, visit [www.pro-test.org.uk](http://www.pro-test.org.uk)*

(Times Online, 4/16/07)

### **Gore to Expand to Phoenix** By Ken Alltucker

W. L. Gore & Associates will embark on an ambitious expansion in Phoenix that will add 150 jobs this year with a long-term plan to create up to 800 positions at a new campus for the company's fast-growing medical-device division.

The Newark, Del.-based company will launch its Phoenix expansion at a leased facility at 19th Avenue and Happy Valley Road while it searches for a large chunk of land in north Phoenix to build a campus that could include up to five buildings.

Phoenix officials on Thursday said Gore's expansion is welcome news for the region's economy and the timing couldn't be more fortunate, just one day after US Airways tapped Pittsburgh over Phoenix for a 600-employee flight operations center.

International Genomics Consortium Chairman Richard Mallery said Gore's decision is an important achievement for the region's bioscience push. "This is like getting Motorola here for semiconductors," said Mallery, referring to Motorola's impact on the growth of the chip-manufacturing business. "This validates the decision for the public and private sectors of this state to put a top priority for biosciences and biomedical care."

The reason for the Phoenix expansion: The privately held company best known for consumer products such as Gore-Tex fabrics has a booming medical-device business with growth spilling out of its core Flagstaff operations.

Gore's medical-device business, which makes stents, catheters and other devices to keep hearts pumping and lungs breathing, has doubled in size over the past five to seven years. The majority of those jobs have landed in Flagstaff, where the company employs 1,600 and plans to add another 100 jobs.

While Gore's Flagstaff operations will remain its largest Arizona base, the company's Phoenix campus will provide a relief valve of sorts that will allow the company to recruit more engineers, scientists and other workers and to easily ship products worldwide. "The big issue for us is to try to stay close to our Flagstaff operations," said John Sininger, Gore's medical-products division leader overseeing its medical-device manufacturing. "We think this really expands our operations and helps us recruit more people."

Sininger said Gore is focusing its search for new land that will provide easy access to highways to

Flagstaff. Other influencing factors to locate in Phoenix rather than other Arizona cities include easy access to Sky Harbor International Airport and Deer Valley Airport and the city's push to bolster its research and bioscience economy.

Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon emphasized that Gore's expansion shows that Arizona's and Phoenix's bioscience initiative to fund research and attract high-wage jobs is paying dividends. "Some people have questioned why the city and the state invest in education, science and medicine," Gordon said. "I say, 'How can we not?' Not only are we training a workforce for today's world, but we are actually building an economy based on the most significant measure of success: education."

Sininger said it is too early to tell what the company will make at its Phoenix operation, other than to say it likely will be cardiovascular-related devices. It will take six to nine months to initially hire 100 to 150 workers and build out and equip the warehouse building. Meanwhile, the company will continue its search for a large piece of land, perhaps 25 acres or more.

Sininger said the company will add jobs in Phoenix as its medical-products division grows. Based on his conversations with Gore and the city's economic-development officials, Gordon said he expects Gore could create up to 1,000 jobs in Phoenix.

Gore officials were careful to ease concerns of Flagstaff officials, too, announcing plans to add 100 jobs at a 133,000-square-foot Kendrick Peak manufacturing plant that will launch operations in April. Gore also has submitted plans to build a 40,000-square-foot building in Flagstaff.

Because of Gore, Flagstaff already ranks among the nation's leaders in concentration of medical-device employment, an industry that economic-development officials covet because the jobs typically pay high wages for skilled and technical workers. "We believe in the abundance mentality. We can grow in Flagstaff, and Phoenix can grow too," said Stephanie McKinney, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council. "We're thrilled Gore continues to expand in Flagstaff and makes more commitments to stay in the state of Arizona."

Medical-device employment is one of the pillars of Arizona's bioscience push identified by the Bioscience Roadmap written by Ohio-based Battelle and funded by the Flinn Foundation.

Walt Plosila, Battelle Technology Partnership Practice vice president who monitors Arizona's bioscience effort, said Gore's expansion could help Arizona attract other medical-device employers. The Valley's largest such employer is Medtronic in Tempe. "It is good news they are expanding in Phoenix and not somewhere else in the country," Plosila said. "It suggests they find Arizona a conducive place to grow and develop a medical-device company."

Plosila expects Arizona and other states will attempt to recruit such companies from California, where high taxes, housing and other costs have made it difficult for employers to recruit out-of-state workers. "The one hot prospect everybody is drooling over is how to go after the

California medical-device business," Plosila said. "Those firms are getting more and more frustrated with the cost of doing business."

For now, Arizona leaders say they will be content with nurturing one of the state's longest-running employers. Gore has been a fixture in Flagstaff for more than three decades, establishing operations there after founder Bill Gore fell in love with the mountain town during a hiking trip.

Phoenix economic-development officials want Gore to grow rapidly in Phoenix, too, perhaps through the offer of training grants and tax credits.

While the company and city officials declined to identify potential sites, Gore would be eligible for a state tax credit up to \$3,000 per employee paid over three years if it locates within a site designated as an enterprise zone. Another potential incentive could be a city-administered program that reimburses companies that enroll workers in specialized training, according to Paul Katsenes, the city's deputy development director. So far, Gore has asked for no incentives.

The company regularly racks up accolades for corporate citizenry. For a decade, *Fortune* magazine has ranked the company as one of the 100 best companies to work for. "This provides quality, high-paying jobs for the residents and the community," said Phoenix City Councilwoman Peggy Neely, whose district will be home to Gore's facility. "The company values some of the things that are important to us, like quality of life."

(AZ Republic, 2/23/07)

### **Facing Trial Under Terror Law, Radical Claims a New Outlook** By Randal C. Archibald

Rod Coronado is a celebrity ex-convict in the underground world of environmental and animal rights radicals who advocate burning construction sites and research labs. In 2003, just after giving a speech in San Diego in which he called fire a "cleansing force" and defended its use in strategic property destruction, a woman asked him a question.

Federal prosecutors say Mr. Coronado's answer - a detailed description of a crude incendiary - should land him in federal prison for 20 years for violating a rarely invoked antiterrorism statute. The speech and subsequent exchange took place a day after a fire did \$50 million in damage at the construction site of a five-story condominium project in San Diego. "I wouldn't be surprised if investigators found a device similar to this at the fire scene last night," Mr. Coronado said after his tutorial, according to prosecutors.

A banner apparently left by the Earth Liberation Front, a radical group to which Mr. Coronado was once tied, had been found near the blaze with the mangled message "If you build it - we will burn it the Elf's are mad," and the group claimed responsibility. The government said a device like the one Mr. Coronado

described could have started a catastrophic fire, but it has not said whether a propellant was found at the scene.

After a grand jury investigation, Mr. Coronado, 41, was charged under a 1999 antiterrorism statute that prohibits "teaching and demonstrating" an explosive device with the intent of its use to commit a violent crime. His trial is scheduled to begin this summer in San Diego. Mr. Coronado, who began in radical tactics by helping to sink whaling ships, says he had nothing to do with the San Diego fire and is the victim of a government vendetta. He has changed his ways, he says, working as a barista at a cafe in Tucson, planning to marry and promoting a lifestyle of organic gardening and "sustainable living."

"I don't believe anymore in illegal direct action," he said in a recent interview. But Mr. Coronado stands by his San Diego speech on First Amendment grounds and says he had a right to describe his life — crime and all — including how he once burned an animal research laboratory at Michigan State University. That crime inspired a wave of arson and landed Mr. Coronado in federal prison for five years in the mid-1990s. "This law is too vague," he said of the antiterrorism statute, adding: "We could walk into Barnes & Noble and Miller's Surplus and buy manuals on how to build bombs. Those places are not being raided by the F.B.I. This charge is selectively used to prosecute people the government feels threatened by."

Mr. Coronado's arrest came in February 2006, a time when the Federal Bureau of Investigation was making several arrests in the West to try to curb the radical groups, which it blames for more than 1,200 acts and millions of dollars in property damage since 1990. Drew Ptasienski, a supervisory special agent in the bureau's counterterrorism division, said recent investigations had disrupted but not dismantled the groups. "I think our success over the last year and a half has made an impact," Mr. Ptasienski said, though he added that such crimes remained on the rise.

In the San Diego speech, delivered in August 2003, Mr. Coronado held aloft a one-gallon plastic jug of apple juice. Fill it with a mixture of gasoline and oil, he explained, "because gasoline burns too fast." The device should be swaddled in cloth, lumber and other materials, he instructed, to promote a longer burn. Federal prosecutors and Mr. Coronado disagree on how the question was worded. The prosecutors say the woman asked him how to "make a bomb for an action." Mr. Coronado says she said, "Tell us about the device you used at the Michigan State arson."

In the interview here, where he lives, Mr. Coronado insisted that legal battles and prison time had taken a toll on him and his family — he has a 5-year-old son and a fiancée with a young daughter — and caused him to re-evaluate radical action. "You can burn luxury homes all day and night, and it is not going to stop growth," said Mr. Coronado, who time and again had defended such actions as essential to promote environmental awareness. "That is me speaking from logic, not from facing federal intimidation and prosecution." He was released from jail a few weeks ago

after serving eight months for a conviction on interfering with a government-sanctioned mountain lion hunt here.

John N. Parmley, the assistant United States attorney handling the San Diego case, declined to comment other than to deny Mr. Coronado's accusation that the grand jury had taken aim at him out of frustration with not finding those responsible for the fire. "I understand his characterization," Mr. Parmley said, "but it is wrong."

Before Congress enacted the statute being invoked to prosecute Mr. Coronado, the Justice Department, in a report to lawmakers, raised questions about its constitutionality. Citing the widespread availability of bomb-making instructions on the Internet and elsewhere, it suggested that the measure be tailored more narrowly, but Congress declined to do so. Mr. Coronado's lawyers asked the judge in this case, Jeffrey T. Miller, to throw out the charge as unconstitutional, but he declined.

A few cases filed under this law are pending, a couple of people have pleaded guilty. Only one case has gone to trial: that of a Ku Klux Klan leader in Pennsylvania who had demonstrated a pipe bomb. That verdict was overturned on appeal, though not on constitutional grounds.

In Mr. Coronado's case, the government has never said anyone acted on his demonstration. The questioner in San Diego has been found, Mr. Coronado's lawyers said, and they are seeking her cooperation. Two undercover police officers attended the speech and are expected to testify. Just as important to the government's case is Mr. Coronado's penchant, no matter his current views, for advocating violence, which he did as recently as the summer of 2005, in an interview on the CBS News program "60 Minutes."

In a 2003 speech at American University, he exhibited a device like the one in San Diego, telling the audience it would help "destroy the profits that were brought about through animal and earth abuse." In the San Diego speech he said, "When we're addressing issues of buildings and institutions whose sole purpose is nothing more than the destruction of life, then there is no other way to deal with these places but through fire."

Today, however, he sings a different tune. "I don't believe anymore in illegal direct action," Mr. Coronado said. "I'm not going to make an effort to condemn other people who still do, and I hope they don't make an effort to condemn the things I now believe in."

(NY Times, 5/3/07)

### **Green Tea Extract Protects Against Brain Damage in New Mouse Model of HIV-related Dementia**

A compound derived from green tea greatly diminished the neurotoxicity of proteins secreted by the human immunodeficiency virus, suggesting a new approach to the prevention and treatment of HIV-

associated dementia, also known as AIDS dementia complex. The disorder is the most severe form of HIV-related neuropsychiatric impairment.

University of South Florida neuroscientist Brian Giunta, MD, reported the findings May 1 at Experimental Biology 2007 in Washington, DC. His presentation was part of the scientific program of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The study was conducted using a new mouse model for HIV-related dementia developed by Dr. Giunta and Jun Tan, MD, PhD, director of the Neuroimmunology Laboratory at the Silver Child Development Center, USF Department of Psychiatry, "These findings suggest that EGCG, the green tea-derived compound, may represent a new and natural compound for the prevention and treatment of this devastating disease," Dr. Giunta said.

"This is a very important finding in the prevention and treatment of HIV-related dementia, which is usually observed in the late stages of HIV disease," said Abdul S. Rao, MD, MA, DPhil, senior associate vice president for USF Health and vice dean for research and graduate affairs at the College of Medicine. "The neuroprotective effects of EGCG, the green-tea extract, may offer an alternative to existing mono or combination antiretroviral therapies that are known to have poor central nervous system penetration."

HIV-associated dementia, a debilitating cognitive, emotional, and physical disorder, affects 22% of HIV-infected adults and more than half of HIV-infected children. Symptoms often begin with slight changes in behavior, intellectual ability, memory, and muscle coordination. Some patients experience depression-like symptoms such as loss of appetite and motivation. Tasks requiring complex thinking and high concentration become difficult, and motor skills gradually deteriorate over time.

The highly active antiretroviral therapies used in developed nations appear to slow the development of brain damage in patients with HIV-related dementia, making it a protracted disorder rather than an acute one. Unfortunately, these therapies neither cure nor prevent development of HIV-associated dementia and several epidemiologic studies indicate they increase the prevalence of the dementia. Currently, no treatments specifically target this neuropsychiatric disorder.

HIV-associated dementia is believed to be caused by the direct effects of HIV upon the brain. The virus secretes proteins known as Tat and gp120, which have direct toxic effects on the neurons. The proteins also have indirect effects caused by the release of chemical messengers known as cytokines, which interact with the HIV proteins to cause death of the brain cells. High levels of these cytokines alone also are toxic to the brain.

When healthy mice were given doses of the HIV proteins Gp120 and/or Tat, in combination with a cytokine known as interferon-gamma, they developed brain damage closely resembling that seen in HIV-associated dementia in humans. Dr. Giunta said the finding may help explain the cognitive and behavioral changes in individuals infected with HIV.

Dr. Giunta then used epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), the major antioxidant derived from green tea, to

break into this pathway of neurotoxicity. He was successful both in cell studies and in studies involving the new mouse model of the disease.

Cultured neurons from mice were exposed to EGCG before being given a cocktail of the two neurotoxic HIV proteins and the toxic cytokine. The green tea compound inhibited the ability of the cytokine to act with the HIV proteins to cause death and damage of the neurons. In further confirmation, the green tea compound also inhibited the neurotoxic properties of these HIV proteins in the presence of the cytokine in live mice.

(Innovations Report, 5/2/07)

### **Combination Treatment Stymies Breast Cancer Growth**

A combination of three different drugs that block the HER-2 receptor, a critical cellular growth signal for some breast cancers, eradicated aggressive breast tumors in mice and could point the way toward developing better treatments in patients, said researchers from the Breast Center at Baylor College of Medicine in a report that appears today in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. "For the first time, we were able to cure mice of a very aggressive human breast tumor," said Dr. Rachel Schiff, assistant professor in the Breast Center at Baylor College of Medicine and senior author of the report. In prior such studies, treatment only slowed or delayed the growth of tumors, she said. In this case, the tumors disappear and do not come back, even when treatment is stopped.

The treatment involved is a new approach known as "targeted" therapy because the protein (in this case, HER-2) driving a tumor to grow is first identified in a patient's tumor and then specific drugs are used to block that particular growth pathway in the cells, said Dr. Kent Osborne director of the Breast Center and the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center with BCM. He is also an investigator on the study. "When you go after a specific target in a patient's tumor, the treatment is likely to be more effective and less toxic," said Schiff.

The tumors in question – nearly 25% of all breast cancers – have high levels of HER-2. While the HER-2 makes the tumors more aggressive, it also provides a target against which new drugs can act. Previously, treatment for patients with HER-2 positive tumors was less effective. "Now we have effective treatment, and survival is markedly improved," said Dr. Grazia Arpino, lead investigator of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at BCM.

"These tumors are initially highly sensitive to a drug known as trastuzumab or Herceptin, one of the drugs used in combination in the mouse study and which is approved by the FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) for treatment," said Schiff.

However, the tumor is wily and can sometimes escape the drug's effects, resulting in resistance. Adding two other experimental drugs – gefitinib and

pertuzumab -- that inhibit HER-2 in different ways can more completely block the growth signals in the tumor, causing it to die.

In one of the tumors studied in this report, blocking the stimulatory effects of estrogen on the tumor was also necessary for optimal treatment, said Schiff. Completely blocking the HER pathway is critical, she said. Leaving out just one of the three drugs was much less effective.

A clinical study using drug combinations in newly diagnosed patients with HER-2 positive breast cancer will start soon under the direction of physicians at BCM's Breast Center, said Osborne. "We are very excited to see if our laboratory results can be translated to patients with the more aggressive types of breast cancer," he said.

(Innovations Report, 5/3/07)

### **Covance Foes Worry over Animal Carcass Disposal** By Chris Markham

An animal-burning incinerator is not part of New Jersey-based Covance's plans for a large laboratory facility in south Chandler. But that doesn't make opponents to the contract lab company's planned move into the city feel any better. "Everyone here wants to know how the carcasses will be disposed of," said Aysha Akhtar, a neurologist and spokeswoman for the Washington, D.C.-based group, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine while at a public hearing Monday. The organization, which promotes the vegetarian diet, opposes the use of animals in testing.

Akhtar was one of several people opposing Covance's application for air quality permits from Maricopa County, which would allow it to operate backup generators, a boiler and air-conditioning elements. The permit is needed for the company to break ground on the project planned in the Chandler Airpark near Gilbert and Queen Creek roads. More than 150 people attended the hearing at the Chandler Municipal Airport.

Many of Covance's opponents say there's little to stop the company from coming back later and applying for a new permit to build an animal crematorium. The company's other labs use crematoriums. But Covance officials called those claims by opponents "a smokescreen on their part."

The company has already announced it will use an outside vendor to dispose of dead lab animals. But the company has not yet decided exactly what vendor it will use, said spokeswoman Camilla Strongin. And besides, even when Covance makes that decision, the company probably won't share the information with the public, she said. "We have an obligation to our vendors not to put them in the line of fire," Strongin said. "And we're dealing right now with a vendor that is facing tertiary targeting."

Covance could later apply for a permit to build an incinerator, Maricopa County Air Quality Department director Robert Kard said, but the company would face the same process it's going through now, including a public hearing. "If they were to apply for a permit with us, given

the nature of the controversy that we see here before us, we've done this with other companies, not just Covance, we would hold a public hearing," Kard said. "There's no escaping that, quite frankly."

(East Mesa Tribune, 5/1/07)

**2007 SwAEBR Essay Contest Results**

We would like announce the winners of the SwAEBR Essay Contest. The SwAEBR judges have selected the following essays for Summer Research Internships:

Winners

- Arya**, "The Fruits of the Lyme Disease Animal Model" - Horizon High School - Teacher: Ms Perot
- Julia**, "Biomedical Breakthroughs Lengthen Lives" - Canyon Del Oro High School - Teacher: Ms Wolpa
- Jordon**, "The Power of Sound" - Desert Mountain High School - Teacher: Mr Drenowski
- Carli**, "The Hope for a Cure" - Canyon Del Oro High School - Teacher: Ms Wolpa

Runners-up

- Allison**, "More Hearts Can Beat Because of Animal Research" - Canyon Del Oro High School - Teacher: Ms Wolpa
- Priya**, "Animals in the Fight Against Asthma" - Corona del Sol High School - Teacher: Mr Morgan
- Hannah**, "Stem Cell Research" - Canyon Del Oro High School - Teacher: Brenda Wolpa
- Catheryn**, "Pinky & the Brain Save the World One Person at a Time" - Desert Mountain High School - Teacher: Cher Fesenmaier
- Bryna**, "How Biomedical Research Using Animals Benefited Someone I Know" - Los Alamos Middle School - Teacher: Mr Cunningham

The winning essays will be published on our SwAEBR website ([www.swaembr.org](http://www.swaembr.org)). We know our winners will have an interesting and educational experience in the research laboratory this summer and we encourage the winners to write another short essay on how they felt about their internship to be published on our website. It is our sincere hope that we will see more essays next year!

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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 disseminates 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.

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