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Events Column

1/5 Deadline for nominations: Mass High Tech 2007 Women to Watch program. [more](#)

1/17 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship Seminar: CGI Pharmaceuticals. Followed by networking, refreshments, and wine bar. Watch for details.

1/25 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm MIT Enterprise Forum. "Financial Markets: Outlook 2007." UConn Health Center [more](#)

1/29-2/1 Business of Biotechnology Program at Yale School of Management. New Haven. [more](#)

2/7 Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship Seminar: Marinus Pharmaceuticals. Followed by networking, refreshments, and wine bar. Watch for details.

3/27-28 Connecticut's Stem Cell Research International Symposium. Hartford. [more](#)

4/24-26 PharmaMedDevice™ 2007. Addresses "combination products" involving medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and biologics. A Reed Life Sciences event. Javits Convention Center, New York, NY. [more](#)

4/24-26 INTERPHEX 2007. Addresses drug manufacturing. A Reed Life Sciences event. Javits Convention Center, New York, NY. [more](#)

5/6-9 BIO International Convention. [more](#)

5/15 JDRH 2007 Dream Gala: "Hot for the Cure." Omni Hotel, New Haven. Watch for details.

Challenges and Successes Mark Eventful Year *From the desk of Paul Pescatello, President and CEO of CURE*

It's been a good, rich year – full of challenges and successes as well. It ended on a sober note, with the news from Bayer and Pfizer, but also included many positive developments elsewhere in the sector. Connecticut bioscience is strong and healthy as we go into the New Year.

[For the full story](#)



CURE Invites HR Managers to Job Discussions

In the wake of announced plans to close the Bayer facility in West Haven, more than a dozen Connecticut-based bioscience HR managers came together November 29, at the invitation of CURE, to discuss the best methods for matching displaced employees with open life science positions in the state.

[For the full story](#)

Bioscience Party Animals Make Merry



'Tis the season to be jolly. Just ask any of the dedicated party animals in the fun-loving world of Connecticut bioscience. The species is numerous, to judge from the crowds at two great get-togethers this past month at 300 George Street in New

Haven: a "first-ever" pizza and beer biotech mixer at Rib-X headquarters, and the CURE annual holiday party.

[For the full story](#)

UConn R&D Opens New Haven Office

The University of Connecticut Research & Development Corporation (UConn R&D) has opened a satellite office at 300 George Street in New Haven. Mark Van Allen, president of UConn R&D, said, "The new location increases our access to a burgeoning talent pool of entrepreneurs and technologies that have located at 300 George Street."

[For the full story](#)

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CURE Member News Digest

- **454 Life Sciences** named to "Scientific American 50" list
- **Achillion** closes sale of share
- **Alexion** reports antibody results
- **Alzheimer's Association** launches website
- **American Cancer Society** elects new officers
- **American Lung Association** fights COPD
- **American Physiological Association** studies fish
- **Bayer** announces move from West Haven
- **Beckman Coulter** names CFO
- **Boehringer Ingelheim** announces FDA approval of pramipexole
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb** campaign fights AIDS
- **CuraGen** drug fights MDA
- **Day Berry & Howard** partners honored
- **Glaxo Smith Kline** gets pre-pandemic contract
- **Invitrogen** wins patent lawsuit
- **Johnson & Johnson** subsidiary to acquire Conor
- **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation** studies human bone marrow
- **Minzt, Levin** in panel with PureTech
- **Nanoviricides** weighs Viet Nam invitation
- **Neurogen** acquires Aplindore rights
- **Pfizer** withdraws torcetrapib
- **PhRMA** in diabetes awareness campaign
- **Praxair** acquires Casper's welding
- **VION** in agreement with Ben Venue
- **Webster Bank** tops SBA list
- **UConn** John Dempsey Hospital recognized
- **Yale** tracks macular degeneration gene

[For the full story](#)



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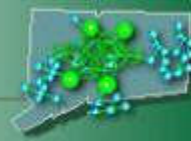
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Thursday, December 21, 2006

Contents

Challenges and Successes Mark Eventful Year
CURE Invites HR Managers to Job Discussions
Bioscience Party Animals Make Merry
UConn R&D Opens New Haven Office
CURE Member News Digest

Challenges and Successes Mark Eventful Year

From the desk of Paul Pescatello, President and CEO of CURE

It's been a good, rich year – full of challenges and successes as well. It ended on a sober note, with the news from Bayer and Pfizer, but also included many positive developments elsewhere in the sector. Connecticut bioscience is strong and healthy as we go into the New Year.

We were all disappointed earlier this month by the announcement that after an investment nearing \$1 billion, Pfizer has had to end clinical trials for torcetrapib, a promising cardiovascular compound. The news reminded us that we're in an inherently risky business.



The torcetrapib episode underscores the risks the bioscience sector takes. It also shows that our industry is doing cutting-edge, breakthrough research – not, as some would characterize it, appropriating ideas from government labs or making "copycat" drugs. Furthermore, torcetrapib demonstrates how well the clinical trial process works – patient safety concerns are paramount, even when potentially enormous sales are at stake.

The episode reminds us why the cost structure for new medicines is what it is. And keep in mind that, high though they may be, the costs of new, innovative drugs are dwarfed by the alternative – long hospitalizations and permanent nursing home care. The bottom line is that the ground-breaking treatments coming out of our industry give people back their lives as well as expand our economy.

The news from Bayer – that financial challenges mandate that it consolidate its operations and relocate from its West Haven facility – reminds us that big pharma is buffeted by market forces, just as any company in a competitive environment. But watching HR managers come together, as they did, in a meeting convened by CURE to find new employment opportunities for displaced Bayer employees, reminds us that Connecticut bioscience is a diverse and essentially healthy industry, blessed with a vibrant core of rapidly-growing biotech firms pushing the frontiers of medicine.

Nothing better demonstrates this vibrancy than the announcements a few weeks ago that Connecticut has disbursed the first year of funding based on the landmark stem cell legislation passed last year. We remain ahead of the pack, as we are now the first state to be actually putting public dollars into stem cell research labs. Furthermore, Connecticut's pioneering efforts have fueled interest in the international stem cell symposium that CURE and others are organizing in Hartford March 27-28. The world's foremost stem cell authorities – including our own scientists from UConn, Wesleyan, and Yale – will be taking part. (Go to the [stemCONN 07 website](#) for more.)

In April, at the state capitol, we'll be orchestrating a conference entitled "The Road Out of the Health Care Crisis—Drug Discovery." And May 6 is BIO, this year in Boston. As usual, we invite all our members to join us as part of the CURE-CT pavilion. Check out the [CURE website](#) for more details.

This is, of course, the time of year when we look both back and to the future. My thanks to all the members and friends of CURE who have made 2006 so successful and 2007 so promising.

CURE Invites HR Managers to Job Discussions

In the wake of announced plans to close the Bayer facility in West Haven, more than a dozen Connecticut-based bioscience HR managers came together November 29, at the invitation of CURE, to discuss the best methods for matching displaced employees with open life science positions in the state.

"We owe it to ourselves as well as to the talented people who have been attracted to Connecticut to keep them here, enriching our cluster, if we can," Paul Pescatello, president and CEO of CURE, told the assembled managers. (Pescatello and CURE co-chair Kevin Rakin serve on the Governor's Commission that is advising Bayer on its relocation and reuse of the West Haven site.)

By the end of the meeting, the managers had begun laying the groundwork, not only for addressing the immediate situation at Bayer, but for streamlining communication about Connecticut bioscience job opportunities on an on-going basis.

Representatives from Bayer's outplacement firm, Lee Hecht Harrison, affirmed that approximately 270 to 286 researchers will enter outplacement as a result of the facility closing. Their resumes will be posted on the Lee Hecht Harrison website, and the firm is organizing several career fairs for the employees, beginning with one Dec 19.

A quick survey around the room indicated that at the moment there may be as many as 750 open positions in Connecticut life science companies. Companies who indicated they are hiring include Boehringer Ingelheim of Ridgefield, Cara Therapeutics, which will soon be moving from Westchester County in New York to Shelton, the Institutes for Pharmaceutical Discovery in Branford, Neurogen of Branford, Vion of New Haven, Alexion of Cheshire, Purdue Pharma of Stamford, and Mannkind Pharmaceuticals of Danbury.

A number of managers were in favor of organizing, perhaps in partnership with Lee Hecht Harrison, an entrepreneurial mentoring seminar for big pharma employees interested in joining smaller biotech organizations.

At the meeting, CURE agreed to devote a section of its website to facilitating job and career information exchange, beginning at the end of January. Also discussed were ways to make more individual employees at CURE member companies aware of CURE and its resources.

The group agreed to continue to meet quarterly to discuss job opportunities and HR issues facing Connecticut bioscience companies.

Bioscience Party Animals Make Merry

'Tis the season to be jolly. Just ask any of the dedicated party animals in the fun-loving world of Connecticut bioscience. The species is numerous, to judge from the crowds at two great get-togethers this past month at 300 George Street in New Haven: a "first-ever" pizza and beer biotech mixer at Rib-X headquarters, and the CURE annual holiday party at Café George by Paula.

More than 75 showed up for the pizza and beer event Nov 29 on the third floor of 300 George. Originally planning an event for their own employees, Rib-X approached CURE about expanding to include other biotechs in the building. They responded enthusiastically, with party-goers spilling over into the third floor office space recently vacated by HistoRx when it relocated to larger quarters on the second floor.



Joyce Sutcliffe of Rib-X with George Malcolmson and Tim Smith of Applied Spine Technologies.

"A great success," said Joyce Sutcliffe, chief research scientist at Rib-X. "It was just what we'd hoped for." CURE is speaking with other area biotechs about expanding the biotech mixer and making it a regular feature on the Connecticut bioscience calendar.

Meanwhile, on Dec 6 CURE continued a tradition of its own, its annual holiday party – "the best networking in New Haven" – held again this year at Café George by Paula on the ground floor of 300 George.



Registration for the holiday party: Therese Wallace, Sarah Berke, Lisa Brenan, and Donna Rhoads Frost of the CURE team greet Andrea Scott of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

More than 200 people attended from around the state, filling both the main dining rooms at Café George and the hall between. There they munched on sushi, coconut chicken, and Paula's other delights, sampled Italian wines, watched arresting medical animations on a wall-sized screen, played the DNA Game, and – above all – took the time to meet and greet one another after an event-filled year in Connecticut bioscience.



Provided courtesy of Winstanley Enterprises, Paula's great feast included mountains of sushi.

In remarks to the guests, Paul Pescatello, president and CEO of CURE, said that the year had ended on a somber note, with news that Bayer was leaving West Haven, and that Pfizer had had to terminate development of torcetrapib, its cardiovascular compound. The news reminds us that we are in an inherently risky business, Pescatello said.



Milt Wallack and Paul Pescatello discuss StemCONN 07, the international stem cell symposium scheduled for March 27-28 in Hartford.

Pescatello then reminded the audience of several positive developments this year: Connecticut has become the first state to actually disburse funding for stem cell research projects. The Yale Cancer Center is proceeding. Connecticut biotechs continue to attract capital – Rib-X and Achillion alone have brought in more than \$100 million this year on the strength of what's going on in their labs.



Michael Newborg of the UConn Center for Science and Technology Commercialization chats with Marc LaLande, head of the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology at UConn.

A number of generous sponsors made the CURE holiday party possible. Leading the pack was Winstanley Enterprises, who underwrote the space, the food, and the parking. Frank's Package Store donated the wine tasting, XVIVO designed the holiday invitation artwork and big-screen animation loop, Joseph Merritt & Co contributed signs and printing, and Elm City Ventures "invested" in the party with a nice check.



Coming to a theater near you: The party was enlivened by XVIVO scientific animations.

The DNA Game was sponsored by Svigals + Partners Architects. Game prizes included Pilot Pen tennis tickets from Market New Haven and food baskets from Management Search, Inc. The first prize iPod Nanos were courtesy of Integrated DNA Technologies.



Something to munch on while networking. In the background: Frank Marco of Wiggins and Dana and Jon Soderstrom of Yale OCR.

UConn R&D Opens New Haven Office

The University of Connecticut Research & Development Corporation (UConn R&D) has opened a satellite office at 300 George Street in New Haven. The main office of the R&D Corporation continues to be located at 406 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, Connecticut, near the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Mark Van Allen, president of UConn R&D, said, "The new location increases our access to a burgeoning talent pool of entrepreneurs and technologies that have located at 300 George Street. Working in close proximity to new startups out of Yale University and this growing cluster of like-minded innovators will increase our opportunities and potentially initiate collaboration between our respective institutions."

UConn R&D is a for-profit subsidiary of the UConn Foundation that initiates new business start-ups based on innovative technologies developed by the faculty and staff. UConn R&D's portfolio includes an orthodontic appliance company, an education software company, a natural insecticide company, and several other projects in development.

Paul Pescatello, president and CEO of CURE, said, "UConn R&D's New Haven office is a very positive indicator for the growth, breadth, and sophistication of the Connecticut bioscience cluster. It bodes well for research and entrepreneurial collaboration among Connecticut's research universities. Adding this new connection will help draw talent and venture capital to the state."

UConn R&D commercializes technologies developed at UConn by evaluating the economics of starting a business that has significant growth potential and will offer investors a return. Each technology is scrutinized by the Center for Science and Technology Commercialization (CSTC) and UConn R&D staff to determine the best development path for that particular business opportunity.

CSTC is the department of the University that handles its intellectual property, and is responsible for negotiating all licensing opportunities at the University. The R&D Corporation and CSTC are part of the Office of Technology Commercialization at the University of Connecticut which is charged with bringing all University generated ideas into the marketplace.

For more information on UConn R&D, contact 860-676-7788 or go to www.uconnrd.com.

CURE Member News Digest

454 Life Sciences (Branford) has been named by Scientific American magazine one of this year's "Scientific American 50," the noted magazine's annual list that recognizes people, teams and organizations whose recent accomplishments, whether in research, business or policymaking, demonstrate leadership in shaping both established and emerging technologies.

454 has announced that comparison of the human and chimpanzee genomes to Neandertal DNA sequences determined by 454 Sequencing™ reveals that modern human and Neandertal DNA sequences diverged about 500,000 years ago. Research has been published online (ahead of print) in the journal Nature. A parallel study on the same Neandertal sample also appears online in the journal Science.

Achillion (New Haven) has closed the sale of an additional 675,000 shares of its common stock in connection with the exercise of the over-allotment option granted to the underwriters of its recent initial public offering of 4,500,000 shares of common stock. Upon closing of the purchase of the over-allotment shares, a total of 5,175,000 shares of common stock have been sold, resulting in gross proceeds of \$59.5 million, before commissions and expenses, and net proceeds before expenses of \$55.3 million.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Cheshire) said that Eculizumab, a novel monoclonal antibody investigational drug, appeared to be safe and well tolerated and provided clinically and statistically significant improvements in intravascular hemolysis, anemia, fatigue and quality of life in patients with paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) during the 52 weeks of treatment in the Phase III SHEPHERD open-label clinical trial. These results were presented Saturday at the 48th Annual Proceedings of the American Society of Hematology in Orlando, Florida.

Alzheimer's Association - Northern CT (Hartford) has announced the launch of their newly updated Web site. The Web site, modeled after The Alzheimer's Association National Chapter site, is designed to better facilitate the flow of information between the Chapter and its visitors.

According to the **American Cancer Society, CT Chapter** (Meriden), the society elected 11 new officers to its volunteer 2006-2007 National Board of Directors during its annual meeting this week in New York, N.Y., including the first-ever

primary care physician to serve as president. The National Assembly and the National Board of Directors are the Society's governing bodies and have consisted of locally elected volunteers since the organization's inception in 1913.

The **American Lung Association of Connecticut** (East Hartford) named November National COPD Awareness Month. COPD, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. It is a progressive and often debilitating lung disease. Long-term smoking is the most frequent cause of COPD.

The American Physiological Society (Bethesda, MD) reports that a study in the November issue of the American Journal of Physiology-Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology finds that the giant danio, unlike its cousin the zebrafish, appears to have the ability to recruit new muscle throughout its life. Humans have the same ability before birth, but mostly lose it after birth.

Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation (Leverkusen, Germany/West Haven) announced a structural realignment of its global pharmaceutical research and development organization. With the global consolidation of research activities, research operations at U.S. sites in West Haven, CT and Richmond CA (including the biological development group now co-located in Richmond) will close. The company will relocate remaining departments and functions presently based in West Haven into headquarters locations in New Jersey.

On the occasion of World Aids Day 2006, **Boehringer Ingelheim** (Ingelheim, Germany/Ridgefield) stated that its patent rights to Viramune® (nevirapine) do not prevent access to this medication in low income countries.

BI announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved pramipexole, a non-ergot dopamine agonist, for the treatment of moderate to severe primary Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS).¹ This is an important milestone for pramipexole (Mirapexin® / Sifrol® / Mirapex®), which was already approved throughout the European Union in April 2006 for this second indication.

Bristol-Myers Squibb (New York, NY/Wallingford), in cooperation with the National AIDS Fund, launched the third annual "Light to Unite" campaign in support of World AIDS Day. This year's "Light to Unite" program shines a light on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in underserved communities throughout the United States. Bristol-Myers Squibb and the National AIDS Fund are encouraging people across the country to visit <http://www.lighttounite.org/> to show their support and to educate themselves and others on emerging HIV/AIDS issues within diverse communities across the U.S.

Curagen Corporation (Branford) has initiated patient dosing in a Phase II open-label, multi-center clinical trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of intravenous PXD101, a small molecule histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor, for the treatment of Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS). This trial is being sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) under a Clinical Trials Agreement with CuraGen for PXD101. The Phase II clinical trial is being led by Amanda Cashen, M.D., Assistant Professor at the Washington School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO.

Day Berry & Howard (Hartford) partners G. Warren Whitaker and Keith Bradoc (Brad) Gallant, have been named to Worth Magazine's 2006 "100 Top Attorneys" list. This is the second year for both attorneys to be chosen for this distinction. Whitaker is based in New York and Bradoc in New Haven.

Glaxo Smith Kline (Research Triangle Park, NC), one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturers, today announced it has been awarded a contract to supply pre-pandemic vaccines to the US strategic national stockpile. The company has received an initial \$40 million order under the contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for bulk H5N1 antigen - the substance in the vaccines that will help produce an immune response.

Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA/Branford) has announced a favorable decision in its patent infringement lawsuit against Stratagene, Inc. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas entered judgment awarding Invitrogen \$16.2 million plus prejudgment interest, as well as reasonable attorney fees to be determined by the court. The judgment included a court-ordered enhancement of the original damages awarded by the jury due to the court's determination of Stratagene's willful infringement of Invitrogen's patent. The court also entered an injunction against further infringement by Stratagene.

Johnson & Johnson (New Brunswick, NJ) and Conor Medsystems, Inc., a cardiovascular device company, announced a definitive agreement whereby Johnson & Johnson will acquire Conor Medsystems for approximately \$1.4 billion.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International (New York/New Haven) reports that researchers have used cells from human bone marrow to repair damaged pancreatic beta cells in mice. The study offers hopes that these stem cells could be used to treat diabetes in humans. The stem cells also halted damage to the kidneys caused by diabetes.

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo PC (New Haven) partnered with PureTech Development to launch an Executive Forum tailored for international life sciences companies seeking to establish their presence in the US. On

December the forum presented a live web-based event on attracting U.S. life science investment.

Nanoviricides (West Haven) has been invited to participate in Vietnam's new Hi Tech Park being built outside of Hanoi. All applicants must be approved at the level of the Prime Minister's office. Nanoviricides said it considers this invitation an exceptional opportunity and will evaluate it in accordance with its long-term strategic plan.

Dr. Eugene Seymour, CEO of Nanoviricides, was invited to address the Third International Bird Flu Summit in Geneva, Switzerland.

Neurogen Corporation (Branford) announced it has acquired from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals worldwide development and commercialization rights to Aplindore, a small molecule partial agonist for the D2 dopamine receptor. Neurogen expects to commence Phase II trials in Parkinson's disease and restless legs syndrome (RLS) with Aplindore during 2007, following the manufacture of clinical supplies.

Neurogen announced that it has commenced Phase I human testing of the Company's leading drug candidate for treatment of obesity. The compound, NGD-4715, works as an antagonist at the melanin concentrating hormone receptor-1 (MCH1). NGD-4715 and other compounds in the Company's obesity program are wholly-owned by Neurogen.

Pfizer Inc (New York, NY/ Groton-New London) said Dec 2 that in the interests of patient safety it is stopping all torcetrapib clinical trials and that it has informed the Food and Drug Administration. Pfizer was informed today that the independent Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) monitoring the ILLUMINATE morbidity and mortality study for torcetrapib recommended terminating the study because of an imbalance of mortality and cardiovascular events.

Earlier, Pfizer announced it will reduce the U.S. sales organization by approximately 20 percent, while maintaining strong support for all of its in-line products, including Lipitor, Celebrex and Geodon, as well as important new products such as Lyrica, Exubera, Chantix and Sutent.

PhRMA (Washington, DC) launched a new multi-media national health education campaign on diabetes awareness.

Praxair (Danbury) has acquired Casper's Welding Solutions & Supply LLC, of Canfield, Ohio, and Welding Equipment Company, Inc. of Long Beach, California.

VION Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (New Haven) reported a net loss of \$6.3 million, or \$0.10 per share, for the three-month period ended September 30, 2006, compared to a net loss of \$3.7 million, or \$0.06 per share, for the same period in 2005.

VION has entered into an agreement with Ben Venue Laboratories, a division of Boehringer Ingelheim, to begin manufacturing its cancer drug Cloretazine. The drug is currently in clinical trials as a treatment in a variety of cancers, including leukemia and lung cancer. Ben Venue Laboratories is located in Bedford, Ohio.

Webster Bank, N.A. (Waterbury) announced that for the fourth year in a row, it is the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) most active lender for the SBA's 504 loan program in Connecticut. The program is intended for borrowers who want to acquire commercial real estate and major fixed assets, with as little as a 10 percent investment into the transaction.

*Following is recent news from **The University of Connecticut** (Storrs) and the **The University of Connecticut Health Center** (Farmington).*

The University of Connecticut Research & Development Corporation (UConn R&D) has opened a satellite office at 300 George Street in New Haven. ([See story in this issue.](#))

Niantic native and UConn graduate Ken Jensen is the first student at the UConn Health Center to formally hold a lab fellowship shared by two different departments: the Department of Molecular, Microbial, and Structural Biology and the Department of Psychiatry. [more](#)

In findings published in the journal Science, UConn chemistry professor Bob Birge and his colleagues reveal that lasers can manipulate the efficiency of photochemistry in a protein called "bacteriorhodopsin." [more](#)

Anne Hiskes, associate professor of philosophy, heads a new University committee that oversees stem cell research. [more](#)

The University received 15 grant awards totaling more than \$12 million of the nearly \$20 million awarded by the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee to advance embryonic and human adult stem cell research in the state. [more](#)

The Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital has been recognized by CareScience, a company that provides care management services for hospitals, for superior outcomes in the use of angioplasty and stents to unblock narrowed coronary arteries in patients with heart attacks. [more](#)

Thanks to a gift of \$2.5 million from Carole and Ray Neag, the UConn Health Center is scheduled to offer a revolutionary new cancer treatment. [more](#)

For Linda Cauley, flu season is an annual reminder of the importance of her work. Cauley studies cellular mechanisms that provide protection against influenza and other respiratory infections. [more](#)

Biomedical engineer John Enderle, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been honored with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) excellence in service award. [more](#)

A podcast on animal behavior produced by UConn psychology professor David Miller cracked the iTunes Top 100 higher education podcasts. [more](#)

A study conducted by researchers at UConn and Hartford Hospital found that a little-used treatment option for heart attack patients reduces the risk of death by 61 percent. The option, available to healthcare providers, but unproven until now, is to administer a low-dose of a clot-busting drug prior to transporting a heart attack patient to a larger hospital for the emergency procedure. [more](#)

*Following is recent news from **Yale University** and the **Yale School of Medicine** (New Haven).*

A detailed study of 520 patients with thoracic aortic aneurysm (TAA) and dissection indicates a very strong genetic link, Yale School of Medicine researchers report in the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. "All immediate family of patients with aneurysms of any type should be screened for TAA and abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA)," said John Elefteriades, M.D., section chief of cardiothoracic surgery and senior author of the study.

*Heart attack patients who also have another acute condition such as stroke, kidney failure and pneumonia may have a poorer outcome than those without these conditions, and those with the most severe conditions account for a disproportionate percentage of hospital deaths, researchers at Yale School of Medicine report in a recent *American Journal of Medicine*. About one third of patients with a heart attack (acute myocardial infarction) also have an active, noncardiac condition that could warrant admission to the hospital, according to first author Judith Lichtman, assistant professor in the Division of Chronic Disease Epidemiology in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale School of Medicine.*

Global health inequalities are substantial, growing, and influenced by economic, social and health-sector variables as well as geography, a study concludes in the November issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. "Particularly disturbing findings from this study are that countries with high mortality in young children are making slow progress, gaps in adult mortality are becoming wider, and countries with the highest adult mortality have reversed their trend from mortality reduction," said lead author Jennifer Prah Ruger, assistant professor of public health in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale School of Medicine.

*Asian Indian men are at increased risk to develop type 2 diabetes mellitus because of chronic liver disease rather than obesity, Yale School of Medicine researchers report in the November 13 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. "The worldwide prevalence of type 2 diabetes mellitus is expected to double within the next two decades with the greatest increase occurring in Asia and the Indian subcontinent, where it will affect 130 million individuals," said the principal investigator, Gerald Shulman, an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and professor of internal medicine and cellular and molecular physiology.*

Researchers have found that lemurs suspected to belong to different species because of their strikingly different coat colors, are not only genetically alike, but belong to the same species. Historically, species classification has been based on comparison of visible physical characteristics of plants or animals. Kellie Heckman, a post-doctoral fellow in ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale, and her colleagues at other universities, used analysis of a mitochondrial gene, cytochrome b, to test the genetic relationship of 70 lemurs that were thought to belong to up to three different species. Their report was published in the open access journal *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.

*Hospitals that provide the most rapid emergency angioplasty have specific strategies to expedite the care of patients with heart attacks, researchers at Yale School of Medicine report in the November 13 *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM). "Despite the effectiveness of these strategies, a minority of the hospitals surveyed were using them, even though many of the strategies were feasible and could be immediately implemented," said lead author Elizabeth Bradley, professor of public health in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale.*

Pinpointing reasons behind the dramatic increase in testicular cancer, now the most common malignant cancer among 15-to-35-year-old Caucasian men, is the focus of a five-year, \$5.5 million National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant to Yale

Women who participated in prolonged, frequent bicycling had decreased genital sensation and were more likely to have a history of genital pain than women runners, researchers in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine and The Albert Einstein College of Medicine report in the current issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine. "We found that competitive women cyclists have a decrease in genital sensation. However, there were no negative effects on sexual function and quality of life in our young, healthy pre-menopausal study participants," said lead author Marsha K. Guess, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Yale.

Genetics play a major role in predisposing infants to retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a disease prevalent in premature infants that disrupts normal blood vessel development of the retina and can lead to blindness, researchers at Yale School of Medicine report in the November issue of Pediatrics. "This is the first definitive study to show that genetic factors are a significant component of ROP, and to quantify the extent of that genetic contribution," said lead author Vineet Bhandari, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine.

Richard P. Lifton, M.D., Sterling Professor and chair of the Department of Genetics at Yale and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute received the 2006 Robert Tigerstedt Award at the 21st Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension in Fukuoka, Japan.

Four renowned faculty members at Yale University have been awarded the distinction of AAAS Fellow, an honor bestowed upon American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) members by their peers: John R. Carlson, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology; Arthur Horwich, professor of genetics and of pediatrics and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Oswald J. Schmitz, the Oastler Professor of Population and Community Ecology in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Director of the Center for Biodiversity Conservation and Science; Kurt W. Zilm, professor of chemistry and chemical engineering.

Joel Rosenbaum, professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB) and faculty member at Yale since 1967, has been named the recipient of the 2006 E. B. Wilson Medal, the American Society for Cell Biology's highest honor for scientific research in cell biology.

A gene variant that increases the risk of developing the aggressive "wet" form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common cause of blindness in people over age 50, is reported in two recent articles in Science by researchers at Yale School of Medicine. Josephine Hoh, associate professor in the Departments of Epidemiology & Public Health and Ophthalmology at Yale, was senior author on one of the studies. Her colleagues at Yale included Michael Snyder and Colin Barnstable in the Departments of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, and Ophthalmology.

Differential cost-sharing approaches in employee health benefits encourage use of preventive care services while controlling a firm's overall health-care costs, according to a study published recently in Health Affairs by researchers at Yale School of Medicine. "Our study suggests that if employers would like to maintain rates of preventive health care use while increasing cost sharing, exempting preventive care services from cost sharing may help," according to lead author Susan H. Busch, associate professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Administration in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Yale School of Medicine.

Voluntary screening for HIV should be a routine part of the medical care of all adults, not just those at high risk, according to a study by researchers at the Yale School of Medicine. The team reports in the December 5 Annals of Internal Medicine that routine HIV screening is cost-effective, even in communities where as few as two in 1,000 people have undiagnosed HIV infection. The guidelines were based in part on findings of the study team led by A. David Paltiel, professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Yale School of Medicine, and the Yale School of Management.

With a structured exercise program, inactive older people at high risk for becoming disabled can improve their physical functioning and reduce their likelihood of having difficulty walking, according to results from a pilot study by researchers at Yale School of Medicine and other institutions. "Even an improvement as small as half a point on the SPPB test may translate into a major improvement in an older person's ability to perform activities of daily living, such as walking across a room, dressing, eating or bathing," said Thomas M. Gill, M.D., professor in the Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology & Public Health at Yale School of Medicine.

Massage therapy is a safe and effective way to reduce pain and improve function in adults with osteoarthritis of the knee, researchers at the Yale Prevention Research Center and at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) report in the first clinical trial to assess the effectiveness of this treatment. "Massage is free of any known side effects and according to our results, clearly shows therapeutic promise," said senior investigator of the study David L. Katz, M.D., associate adjunct professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health at Yale School of Medicine and director of Yale's Prevention Research Center.

Alan E. Kazdin, the John M. Musser Professor of Psychology, Child Psychiatry, and Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale, has been named President of the American Psychological Association (APA), the largest association of psychologists worldwide.

The Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale bestowed Golden Apple Awards Dec 7 on the winners of its first "Seeds of Healthy Change" contest, which is designed to generate creative ideas to battle the global obesity epidemic.

For more member news, see the [Nov 2006 issue of CURE News](#)

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