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Events Column

3/13 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm.
Connecticut Venture Group
Second Annual Business Finance
and Assistance Fair. Marriott
Hotel, Stamford. [more](#)

3/22 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm.
Connecticut Venture Group
Second Annual Business Finance
and Assistance Fair. Hartford
Club, Hartford. [more](#)

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

3/30 8:00 am - 7:00 pm.
Healthcare Conference.
Presented by the Yale School of
Management. Omni Hotel, New
Haven. [more](#)

4/14 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Y50K
Biotechnology Entrepreneurial
Competition 2007. [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](#)

5/1-2 14th Annual Crossroads
Venture Fair. Marriott Hotel,
Stamford. Call for entries and
registration now open. [more](#)

5/5 Juvenile Diabetes Research
Foundation 2007 Dream Gala
"Hot for the Cure," honoring
Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
6 pm cocktails, silent auction. 8
pm dinner, dancing, live auction.
Omni Hotel, New Haven. Call
Denise Loeb at 248-1880.

The Importance of StemCONN

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

StemCONN 07, the stem cell research international symposium organized by CURE, will take place March 27-28 in Hartford. Governor Rell's gracious offer to launch the proceedings with an opening press conference on the first day confirms the significance of this important event in the 2007 bioscience calendar.

[For the full story](#)



Budding Entrepreneurs Attend CURE Seminar

Connecticut lifescience leaders shared their war stories at an entrepreneurship seminar January 16 with scientists considering starting or joining an entrepreneurial biotechnology company. Organized by CURE, the seminar was designed to give the scientists a realistic view of the challenges and rewards of starting a lifescience business.

[For the full story](#)

UK Stem Cell Bank Makes Presentation



[For the full story](#)

Dr. Glyn Stacey of the UK Stem Cell Bank discussed the regulatory and operational issues of the bank in a workshop at Yale. The event was hosted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, together with the British Consulate and the Yale Stem Cell Center.

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

6/18-20 BioVenture Forum East 2007. The largest life sciences venture forum on the East Coast. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. [more](#)

6/18-20 International Congress of Nanobiotechnology & Nanomedicine 2007. San Francisco, CA. [more](#)

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CGI and Marinus Present at Yale BioHaven



The founders of CGI Pharmaceuticals and Marinus Pharmaceuticals explained the scientific and business thinking behind their ventures recently at seminars in Yale's Anlyan Center. The events were part of the Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship series, which is co-sponsored by CURE and Yale's Office of Cooperative Research. Their purpose is to demonstrate how local bioscience ventures have been successfully founded.

[For the full story](#)

CURE Member News Digest

- **454 Life Sciences** doubles sequencer installations in 2006
- **Achillion Pharmaceuticals** discontinues GS9132
- **Albertus Magnus** cites professor's book
- **Alexion** reports fourth quarter results
- **American Cancer Society** promotes breast cancer test
- **American Lung Association** supports anti-smoking law
- **Applied Spine Technologies** reports European approval
- **Bayer Healthcare** ends Trasylol trials
- **Boehringer Ingelheim** cites FDA approval on GAD
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb** named top organization
- **CuraGen** reports year-end results
- **Danbury Hospital** promotes varicose vein procedure
- **Thermo Fisher Scientific** reports fourth quarter results
- **Glaxo Smith Kline** reports COPD study
- **HistoRx** technology cited in NEJM
- **Invitrogen** forges ties to Baylor and UT
- **Johnson & Johnson** gets FDA approval on stent
- **Neurogen** names three executives
- **Pfizer** names board member
- **PhRMA** reports bioscience research spending
- **Praxair** expands New Mexico facility
- **Quinnipiac** lauded in U.S. News college survey
- **Trinity trustee** makes \$2.5 million challenge gift
- **UConn** gets \$1.25 million from Boehringer-Ingelheim
- **Vion** to proceed with Phase II trial
- **Yale** sketches early primate evolution

[For the full story](#)



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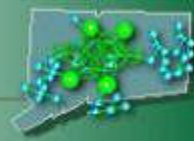
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The Importance of StemCONN

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

StemCONN 07, the stem cell research international symposium organized by CURE, will take place March 27-28 in Hartford. Governor Rell's gracious offer to launch the proceedings with an opening press conference on the first day confirms the significance of this important event in the 2007 bioscience calendar.



The idea of organizing an exchange of scientific information, building on Connecticut's historic support for stem cell research, struck a resonant chord early on with stem cell researchers, both inside and outside of the state. As a result, a truly stellar cast of leading experts in the field of stem cell research from around the globe will be taking part in the four sessions of the scientific symposium on the second day. ([View the complete Program.](#))

There has also been great interest in the four panels on the first day, which will explore political, economic, and social implications of human stem cell research. In addition to a session briefing legislators, media, and the public and honoring Connecticut's stem cell researchers, there will be panels on the importance of ESCRO (ethical oversight) committees in the implementation of stem cell research, the prospects for interstate research collaboration in the light of current federal policies, and a look at the prospects for commercial applications of stem cell research. ([View the complete Program.](#))

Thanks to the generous support of Quinnipiac University, the two-day symposium will be followed the evening of March 28 by a public forum at Quinnipiac featuring leading experts in the field. ([View the Forum program.](#))

Launched by CURE with its founding partners, the Connecticut Stem Cell Coalition and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, StemCONN 07 has attracted a full range of eager sponsors, another measure of the significance of this event. ([View the Sponsors.](#))

Among the sponsors are the publishers of [STEM CELLS](#) and [STEM CELLS Portal](#), which plans to publish the proceedings online.

Registration has been running ahead of expectations, and in fact we recently expanded seating capacity for the most popular sessions. There is still time, however, to register (a reduced rate is in effect until March 9.) ([View Registration.](#))

On behalf of Pfizer and its members committed to unlocking the therapeutic potential of stem cells, CURE is proud to have taken a leading role in the development of Connecticut's historic stem cell legislation, and in financing and organizing StemCONN 07. See you there!

Paul R. Pescatello is President and CEO of CURE.

Budding Entrepreneurs Attend CURE Seminar

Connecticut lifescience leaders shared their war stories at an entrepreneurship seminar January 16 with scientists considering starting or joining an entrepreneurial biotechnology company. Organized by CURE, the seminar was designed to give scientists, including those displaced by Bayer's decision to close its West Haven research facility, a realistic view of the challenges and rewards of starting a lifescience business.

At the two-hour seminar:

Frank Marco, head of the entrepreneurs and emerging companies practice group for the Connecticut law firm Wiggin and Dana, described the early decisions required to move a company from dream to startup.

David Scheer, a venture capitalist and head of Scheer & Co., called raising money "difficult in the best of situations." Scheer outlined ways to improve the odds when a company goes out to raise financing.

R. Mark Van Allen, president of the University of Connecticut Research & Development Corporation, shared the evaluation criteria he uses when he considers licensing a technology versus starting up a commercial venture. Calling "creating a company a lot more difficult," he said he asks himself first whether the technology is new or "just an improvement."

Tom Wood, president of Applied Spine, said he has the same advice for both job seekers and entrepreneurs: "Network, network, network."

And Frank DiNucci, president of Connecticut Innovations, outlined his organization's initiatives for funding early stage ideas and providing entrepreneurs with the mentoring needed for building a business plan.

The panel aimed to provide practical, hands-on information tied specifically to the bioscience industry. It covered such topics as the different kinds of early-stage investors, the importance of creating an identity for your company and positioning it to potential investors as well as customers, and the need to assemble an effective team.

Eric Georgelos, who is currently at Bayer but considering starting up a business with two colleagues, said he found the seminar timely and informative. "I especially liked the panel format," he said. "You heard the story from several different angles, and got a good sense of what's out there and what needs to be done."

"This was a good idea and it came at the right time," said Peter Rae, also of Bayer. "It was great of CURE to set this up. You get a strong sense that there is a community here in the bioscience area that is willing to provide support."

UK Stem Cell Bank Makes Presentation

Dr. Glyn Stacey of the UK Stem Cell Bank discussed the regulatory and operational issues of the bank in a workshop at Yale. The event was hosted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, together with the British Consulate and the Yale Stem Cell Center.



"The UK Stem Cell Bank works with the scientific and clinical community to assure the quality of human stem cell lines used in research and therapy," Dr. Stacey told his audience.

Part of the UK's National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), the UK Stem Cell Bank aims to provide international access to well characterized and ethically sourced stem cell lines, both somatic and embryonic, Dr. Stacey said. The bank aims to deliver reliable and reproducible cells to promote research work and to provide seed stocks for clinical trials.

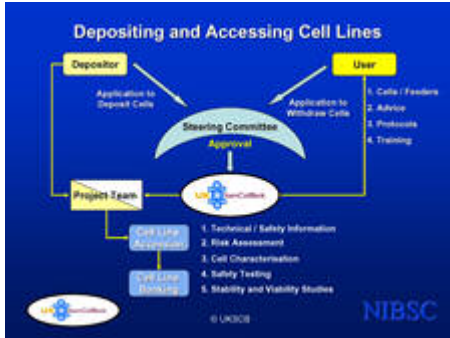
To remain independent, the bank steers clear of both commercial product development and basic research on stem cell biology, providing instead the stem cell stocks for such activities.

Dr. Stacey said the bank is actively seeking deposits from stem cell researchers, and he

cited the stringently scrutinized ethical provenance and international quality standards for all lines as reason for cooperating with the bank.

As of January 2007, the bank had 40 approved hES cell lines. It has started a series of international training seminars and is part of an international stem cell initiative. The bank will soon be moving to larger quarters in Hertfordshire.

Dr. Stacey's scientific background is in microbiology and cell biology. His initial work at NIBSC was focused on suitability of cells used for the production of biological medicines.



Dr. Stacey was introduced by Warren Wollschlager, Chief of the Office of Research and Development, the office within the Connecticut Department of Public Health that is responsible for implementing Connecticut's stem cell legislation, introduced Dr. Stacey. Dr. Carolyn Slayman, deputy dean at the Yale University School of Medicine, made welcoming remarks.

CGI and Marinus Present at Yale BioHaven



The founders of CGI Pharmaceuticals and Marinus Pharmaceuticals explained the scientific and business thinking behind their ventures recently at seminars in Yale's Anlyan Center. The events were part of the Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship series, which is co-sponsored by CURE and Yale's Office of Cooperative Research. Their purpose is to demonstrate how local bioscience ventures have been successfully founded.

Speaking for CGI Pharmaceuticals Jan 17 were Peter Fuller, Ph.D., chief operating officer, and Ira Mellman, Ph.D., founder and scientific advisor and the Sterling Professor of Cell Biology & Immunology at Yale.

Speaking for Marinus Pharmaceuticals Feb 7 were Harry Penner, chairman & CEO, and Vincent Pieribone, founding discovery officer and Associate Professor of Physiology at Yale University.



CGI Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to the discovery and development of breakthrough small molecule kinase inhibitors for a broad range of oncology/angiogenesis and autoimmune/allergic/inflammatory disease indications. The company has built a powerful drug discovery engine that specifically addresses the unique challenges associated with kinase drug targets and is emerging as a leader in developing breakthrough kinase inhibitor therapeutics.

CGI currently employs 30 people and operates in a 24,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in Branford, CT. Since beginning operations in April 2000, the company has raised a total of \$62 MM in three rounds of private equity financing.



CGI has established kinase partnerships with five top-tier pharmaceutical and biotech companies. The company is actively seeking additional partners in two areas, strategic alliances and drug discovery.

Marinus is a new specialty pharmaceutical company dedicated to the development and commercialization of novel drugs to treat serious neurological, psychiatric, and pain disorders. The company is developing Ganaxolone for the treatment of epilepsy. This promising new drug has been successfully reformulated by Marinus utilizing proprietary technologies. Phase IIb studies are expected soon. Licensed from Yale University, Chelerythrine is in pre-clinical development for both the treatment of bipolar disorder and the cognitive deficits of schizophrenia.

In October 2005, Marinus announced the closing of a \$29.4 million Series A financing



round. The financing was led by Domain Associates, Sofinnova Ventures and Canaan Partners, with participation by Foundation Medical Partners and private investors. The company has also received funding from the Epilepsy Project, Stanley Medical Research Foundation, Connecticut Innovations and the National Institutes of Health.



Marinus is actively seeking to expand its portfolio of neurological, psychiatric and pain disorder programs through acquisition or in-licensing. The Marinus team has over 30 years of experience structuring pharmaceutical partnerships.

Refreshments and networking in the Anlyan Center lobby followed the presentations.

The Yale Entrepreneurial Society (YES) and the Yale Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Society (YBPS) help promote the Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship Seminars. Past seminars can be [viewed on the web](#).

CURE Member News Digest

According to a recent release from its parent company, CuraGen, **454 Life Sciences** (Branford) "continued to establish itself as a leader in next-generation sequencing during 2006. Working with our partner Roche Applied Science, the number of Genome Sequencer systems installed during 2006 more than doubled compared to 2005, resulting in a cumulative installed base of more than 60 instruments. Furthermore, 454 Sequencing has continued to have an impact on life science research with more than thirty peer-reviewed papers, in journals such as *Nature* and *Science*, across a broad range of life science research topics, published during 2006."

Gilead Sciences and **Achillion Pharmaceuticals** (New Haven) have decided to discontinue the development of GS 9132, also known as ACH-806, for the treatment of hepatitis C viral (HCV) infection, based upon preliminary data from a Phase 1b/2 trial. The trial indicated that the compound demonstrated antiviral activity. However, based on small elevations of serum creatinine (a marker of kidney function), which were reversible after completion of dosing, Gilead and Achillion have elected to shift their focus to the evaluation of other NS4A antagonists developed by Achillion to identify a lead candidate for development.

Albertus Magnus (New Haven) reports that associate Professor Robert Hubbard's book ***The Last Survivors*** was featured on a February 2007 episode of the National Public Radio program, *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*. The book reveals the last living person of famous shipwrecks and natural disasters, wars and assassinations, television shows and movie casts, outlaw gangs and lawmen, inventions and discoveries, elections and sporting events, and more. (www.lastsurvivors.com).

Alexion Pharmaceuticals (Cheshire) reported fourth quarter 2006 revenues of \$0.2 million and a net loss of \$39.3 million, resulting in a basic and diluted loss per share of \$1.19 compared to revenues of \$0.4 million, a net loss of \$34.5 million and basic and diluted loss per share of \$1.12 for the same period in 2005.

According to the **American Cancer Society** (Atlanta/Meriden), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved MammaPrint, a new genetic test that can help predict whether a woman's early stage breast cancer is likely to come back after initial treatment. The test is one of several that could help breast cancer patients and their doctors make decisions about how aggressively to treat the disease.

According to a study published in the journal CANCER, a significant number of women who begin taking tamoxifen after initial breast cancer treatment stop taking the drug well before completing the usual 5-year course of treatment. Quitting the drug early could put these women at higher risk of breast cancer recurrence, since earlier studies have shown that women who take tamoxifen for the full 5 years are less likely to have their breast cancer return than women who take the drug for only 2 years.

ACS also announced that men who gave up cigarettes for chewing tobacco or snuff still had higher death rates from lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke and other tobacco-related illnesses than men who quit smoking without taking up another form of tobacco.

The **American Lung Association** (New York/East Hartford) has issued a statement in support of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, a bi-partisan legislation that would give the FDA authority over tobacco products. Once enacted into law, this measure will end the special protection enjoyed by tobacco companies for decades and seriously reduce the devastating impact of tobacco use in the United States. Tobacco-related diseases are the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing more than 438,000 deaths each year.

Applied Spine Technologies (New Haven) recently announced that its new Stabilimax NZ Dynamic Spine Stabilization System has received CE Mark approval in Europe for treatment of degenerative lumbar spine stenosis. The company's initial product, Stabilimax BAR, which was granted 510(k) regulatory clearance in the U.S. last July, also received CE Mark approval in Europe for treatment of degenerative lumbar disease. Stabilimax NZ is a posterior dynamic-stabilization system designed to support an injured or degenerated spine. Requiring no tissue removal or replacement, Stabilimax NZ is intended to be a substantially less-invasive option for many patients who are currently limited to fusion or artificial disc implants. In Europe, patients already are being implanted successfully by Rudolf Bertagnoli, M.D., one of the most experienced motion-preservation spine surgeons in the world.

AST recently received permission under an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) from the FDA to commence a multi-center, randomized, controlled clinical trial comparing posterior dynamic stabilization using Stabilimax NZ to patients receiving traditional fusion stabilization to treat degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis. A total of 266 Stabilimax NZ patients and 133 control patients will be enrolled in the trial, which is expected to start this month at 20 sites across the U.S.

Bayer Healthcare (Leverkusen, Germany/West Haven) has decided to end three ongoing clinical studies investigating the safety and efficacy of Trasylol® (aprotinin injection) on transfusion requirements and blood loss in adults undergoing: elective spinal fusion surgery, pneumonectomy or esophagectomy for cancer, and radical or total cystectomy in bladder cancer. The Trasylol labelling recently approved in the U.S. and which is in the approval process in the European Union and other countries, includes a recommendation that in order to manage possible anaphylactic reactions, Trasylol should be administered only in surgical settings where cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) can be rapidly initiated. The use of CPB is not practical in non-cardiac surgical settings. The current U.S. Prescribing Information for Trasylol is available on www.trasylol.com.

Eli Lilly and **Boehringer Ingelheim** (Ingelheim, Germany/Ridgefield) recently announced that the FDA has approved the antidepressant Cymbalta® (duloxetine HCl) for the treatment of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). The approval is based on results of three studies in which the safety and efficacy of duloxetine in the treatment of GAD was studied in more than 800 non-depressed adults. In all studies, duloxetine significantly improved core anxiety symptoms compared with placebo. In addition, duloxetine patients reported greater improvement in functional impairment associated with the illness, including improved ability to perform everyday activities at work, home, and in social situations.

BI has cancelled the closing of its divestiture of Pharmaton SA to Ideasphere, previously planned for February 16, 2007, after IdeaSphere failed to fulfill closing obligations in accordance with the contract. BI is in the process of considering alternative options in the interest of both itself and Pharmaton. Operations of the Pharmaton business in Lugano, as well as marketing and distribution of Pharmaton products will continue under BI's responsibility.

Bristol-Myers Squibb (New York, NY/Wallingford) has been selected a "Top Organization for Multicultural Business Opportunities of 2006" by more than 500,000 women and minority business owners. BMS ranked number 33 among the 50 companies on the Div50 list, which is produced by DiversityBusiness.com, the nation's leading multicultural business-to-business website that links large organizational buyers to multicultural product and service suppliers. BMS is one of only three pharmaceutical companies chosen for 2006.

CuraGen (Branford) recently reported that for the year ended December 31, 2006, its consolidated net loss was \$59.8 million, or \$1.09 per share, compared to a net loss of \$73.2 million, or \$1.41 per share, for fiscal year 2005. The net loss for the fourth quarter of 2006 was \$15.8 million, or \$0.29 per share, compared to a net loss of \$15.6 million, or \$0.29 per share, for the fourth quarter of 2005.

Danbury Hospital has announced that Alan Dietzek, MD, has successfully launched a revolutionary treatment for varicose veins with an improved VNUS® Closure® procedure that reduces total procedure time from more than an hour to less than 30 minutes, eliminating patient bruising and speeding post-operative recovery. Dr. Dietzek conducted the first such procedure in Connecticut in February. Danbury Hospital is 1 of 4 healthcare facilities in the United States chosen to participate in this study of new catheter efficacy in vein closure.

DH has also fully implemented digital mammography – the most advanced technology for detecting early breast cancer – at all three of the hospital's state-of-the-art imaging facilities. Digital mammography penetrates dense tissue better than standard mammography making it easier to find smaller cancers. It also facilitates storage, comparison and manipulation of images.

At the hospital's recent annual meeting, John M. Murphy, MD, Chairman, confirmed a highly successful year of operation for 2006, which included national designations for quality, several new facility openings, and a financial return of \$30 million to reinvest in the region's leading health care system.

Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, MA) reported that revenues more than doubled to \$1.67 billion in the fourth quarter of 2006 (including \$849 million from the merger with Fisher Scientific, completed on November 9, 2006), compared with \$741 million in the 2005 quarter. GAAP diluted earnings per share (EPS) were \$.08 in 2006, versus \$.34 in the year-ago

period. GAAP operating income for the 2006 quarter was \$26.8 million, compared with \$88.5 million in 2005, and GAAP operating margin was 1.6%, compared with 11.9% a year ago. GAAP results in 2006 include \$125 million of pre-tax charges related to the merger with Fisher.

The company is showcasing a broad spectrum of laboratory automation capabilities, spanning bench-top solutions to fully integrated platforms, at LabAutomation 2007. These new technologies are designed to further improve workflow efficiency and data reproducibility in two key areas of lab automation and drug discovery research: cell growth and analysis, and protein crystallization.

Thermo Fisher Scientific has received the "2006 Product Line Strategy Award" for its outstanding contribution to the European laboratory automation market. The award acknowledges the company's distinctive expertise in advanced laboratory automation solutions, its great insight into customer needs and its market-leading ability to meet the ever-changing demands in drug discovery.

GlaxoSmithKline (Research Triangle Park, NC) reports the largest ever study investigating the effect of treatment on mortality and morbidity in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The study shows the benefits of the company's Seretide in the treatment of patients with COPD. Seretide treatment was associated with a 17.5% reduction in the risk of dying from any cause over three years compared to placebo; a 25% reduction in the rate of exacerbations; and, an improvement in lung function and health related quality of life in patients with COPD. Results have been submitted to regulatory authorities world-wide for consideration for inclusion into Seretide prescribing information."

GSK and Human Genome Sciences, Inc. have announced the initiation of dosing in BLISS-76, one of two pivotal Phase 3 clinical trials of LymphoStat-B® (belimumab) in patients with active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). LymphoStat-B is being developed by HGS and GSK under a definitive development and commercialization agreement entered into in August 2006.

Dr. Stephanie Burns has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director of GSK. Dr Burns is Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dow Corning Corporation. An expert in organic chemistry, Dr. Burns is also a member of the American Chemical Society and sits on the executive committee of the Society of Chemical Industry.

GSK has completed the tender offer by its wholly-owned subsidiary Pilgrim Acquisition Corporation (PAC) for shares of common stock of Praecis Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. As a result of the merger, PRAECIS will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of GSK.

A study published this month in *The New England Journal of Medicine* underscores the prognostic potential of AQUA-based assays in helping determine cancer survival among different patients. The research team working on this study used the HistoRx PM-2000™ instrument and AQUA® technology from **HistoRx** (New Haven, CT) to measure expression levels of certain proteins in tumors from patients with early-stage non-small-cell lung cancer. The protein levels were then correlated with patient survival.

"HistoRx is delighted that Dr. Bepler, one of the first members of our HARP institutional research program, has used our technology to make this advance in biomarker research," said Rana Gupta, CEO of HistoRx. "HistoRx is dedicated to the development of AQUA-based diagnostic tests that provide prognostic value in the field of cancer. This exciting work by Dr. Bepler validates this strategy."

Invitrogen Corporation (Carlsbad, CA) has formed a strategic scientific relationship with researchers from Baylor College of Medicine and The University of Texas at Houston to use Invitrogen's broad gene expression and imaging portfolio to enable discovery of biomedically relevant aspects of gene and protein expression through advanced screening techniques. The screening centers will focus on many aspects of disease-related biology including diabetes, cancer and steroid hormone-related metabolic disorders. "This partnership allows us to work with many key decision makers in the academic marketplace," said Lewis Vann, Ph.D, business development manager for Invitrogen's Consortium Program. "By combining resources and technologies we are maximizing the impact on consortium-based research."

Invitrogen recently announced fourth quarter and full year 2006 results. Revenues for the fourth quarter were \$330 million, resulting in full year sales of \$1,263 million, an increase of 5 percent over the \$1,198 million reported for 2005.

Cordis Corporation, a company of **Johnson & Johnson** (New Brunswick, NJ) announced that it has received FDA approval to market the PRECISE® RX Nitinol Self-Expanding Stent and ANGIOGUARD® RX Emboli Capture Guidewire System to treat clogged neck arteries. The PRECISE® RX Nitinol Self-Expanding Stent and ANGIOGUARD® RX Emboli Capture Guidewire System are different from Cordis' over-the-wire carotid system approved last year. The RX, or rapid exchange, version facilitates single operator use and more efficient manipulation of the catheter and guidewire during stenting procedures.

Neurogen Corporation (Branford), has appointed three executives to positions as vice president: Arunee Changchit, Vice President, Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics; Jeffrey Dill, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; and Ricardo

Ochoa, Vice President, Preclinical Safety. William H. Koster, Ph.D, President and CEO of Neurogen said, "These appointments represent important steps as Neurogen continues to grow. In addition to our acknowledged accomplishments in drug discovery, we have expanded our capabilities in functional areas that are critical to a maturing organization, as we move our pipeline and the Company forward to build value for shareholders. Neurogen is extremely pleased to have executives of the caliber of Arunee, Jeff, and Ricardo on our team."

Pfizer Inc. (New York, NY/Groton-New London) has announced that Constance J. Horner, a member of the company's Board of Directors since 1993, has been elected lead director effective February 23. She succeeds Dr. Stanley O. Ikenberry, who has announced plans to retire from the board effective March 22, 2007 in accordance with Pfizer's mandatory retirement age. Horner will preside over executive sessions of Pfizer's independent directors and will facilitate information flow and communication between the directors and the chairman, in addition to other duties specified by the board.

Patients with coronary heart disease who took Pfizer's Lipitor® (atorvastatin calcium) 80 mg tablets reduced their risk of hospitalizations due to heart failure compared to patients taking the 10 mg dose of Lipitor, according to a new analysis of a subset of patients from the five-year TNT (Treating to New Targets) study, published in *Circulation*. Analysis showed that patients with heart disease who took Lipitor 80 mg dose achieved significant reductions in the risk of hospitalizations due to heart failure by 26 percent. For those patients with a history of heart failure, Lipitor 80 mg significantly reduced their risk of hospitalization by 41 percent.

America's pharmaceutical and biotechnology research companies set a new record for biopharmaceutical research spending last year with an investment of \$55.2 billion to develop new medicines and vaccines, according to analyses by **PhRMA** and Burrill & Company. The amount is \$3.4 billion higher than the previous record of \$51.8 billion spent by U.S. companies in 2005. A PhRMA survey of its member companies shows that they spent an estimated \$43 billion – or almost 80 percent of the total spent by the nation's biopharmaceutical companies in 2006 – on research and development of new treatments for a wide array of medical conditions. Last year's PhRMA research spending, a new record for its members, was \$3.1 billion higher than the previous PhRMA record of \$39.9 billion spent on R&D in 2005.

Praxair, Inc. is expanding its storage and industrial gas production capacities at its Kirtland, New Mexico facility. The expansion doubles the current storage capacity and increases production capacity by 100 to 150 tons per day over the next two years, in response to the growing demand by oil and gas production customers located in the San Juan basin in Colorado and New Mexico.

Quinnipiac University has once again been named among the best universities providing a full range of undergraduate and master's level programs in the U.S. News & World Report's 2007 America's Best Colleges issue, the definitive guide for college-bound students. This is the 11th consecutive year U.S. News has named Quinnipiac as one of the best universities in the country. Quinnipiac ranked 12th in the northern universities master's region, according to the special issue.

Mitchell M. Merin '75, a trustee of **Trinity College** (Hartford), retired managing director and former president and chief operating officer of investment management at Morgan Stanley, has made a \$2.5 million challenge gift to establish permanent scholarship support for Hartford-based students to attend Trinity. Merin's challenge gift will match, dollar-for-dollar, all gift commitments for the same purpose, up to an additional \$2.5 million.

Vion Pharmaceuticals (New Haven) has announced that it will proceed to the second stage of accrual to its pivotal Phase II trial of Cloretazine® (VNP40101M) in previously untreated elderly patients with *de novo* poor-risk acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). The trial CLI-043 is being conducted in over twenty North American and European sites and it is evaluating Cloretazine® (VNP40101M) as a single agent in previously untreated AML patients over the age of 60 with *de novo* poor-risk AML. The primary endpoint for this trial is to determine the complete response rate. Secondary endpoints include overall survival, disease-free survival and progression-free survival.

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

The School of Pharmacy has received a \$1.25 million gift from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. to establish an endowed chair in mechanistic drug toxicology, the first such chair in the nation. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. previously donated \$250,000 to name a laboratory in the new Pharmacy/ Biology Building that specializes in dosage forms. In June 2004, New London-based Pfizer Global Research and Development, a division of Pfizer Inc., created a distinguished endowed chair in pharmaceutical technology at the school. [more](#)

BI has also pledged \$180,000 over the next three years to co-develop a pilot master's degree program in synthetic organic chemistry. [more](#)

UConn plant biologists have developed a tool that may help alleviate public concerns surrounding genetically-modified plants. The technology, developed in the laboratory of Yi Li, associate professor of plant science, provides a successful method for eliminating all the transgenic genes from pollen and seeds if needed. The research is published in the *March*

Jane Kerstetter, an associate professor of allied health sciences, recently completed a study showing that soy protein may have a negative effect on calcium absorption in women. [more](#)

With more than \$500,000 in grant funding, UConn is one of six public universities in New England that is benefiting from a national focus on "green chemistry" as a way of preserving resources while reducing waste and the generation of hazardous materials. [more](#)

Dr. David Rowe, director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine, and Professor Anne Hiskes, chair of UConn's Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee, were part of a panel that addressed questions from the public about stem cell research during the first Science Café on Feb. 11. [more](#)

With authorization from the Board of Trustees, the University has purchased the former FarmTech building near the Health Center in Farmington. Officials plan to renovate the nearly 113,000-square-foot structure to establish a Center of Innovation that will include the University's new stem cell institute, along with cutting edge cell biology and genetics research. [more](#)

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

The origins and earliest branches of primate evolution are clearer and more ancient by 10 million years than previous studies estimated, according to a study featured on the cover of the Jan. 23 print edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The paper by researchers at Yale, the University of Winnipeg, Stony Brook University, and led by University of Florida paleontologist Jonathan Bloch reconstructs the base of the primate family tree by comparing skeletal and fossil specimens representing more than 85 modern and extinct species.

The Yale Child Study Center has received a \$3.5 million National Institute of Child Health and Human Development grant for an ongoing, multidisciplinary research program on autism and related developmental disorders. The five-year research program focuses on developmental aspects and outcomes for affected patients. The project includes a prospective study on the earliest manifestations of autism in infants at risk for the condition, and funds research on predictors and determinants of subsequent functioning and communication skills.

The alternative view that a virus causes spongiform encephalopathies of the brain, such as "mad cow" and Creutzfeldt-Jakob (CJD) disease, rather than prion proteins, which are normally produced throughout life, is bolstered in a new study by Yale School of Medicine researchers. The report published online January 29 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences provides evidence that a virus causes these diseases, which are manifested by devastating holes, or sponge-like spaces, in the cerebral cortex. The conclusions counter the now conventional view that abnormally folded prion proteins are infectious, and instead suggests that abnormal prion proteins are late stage footprints left by the virus.

A novel approach to synthesizing nanowires (NWs) allows their direct integration with microelectronic systems for the first time, as well as their ability to act as highly sensitive biomolecule detectors that could revolutionize biological diagnostic applications, according to a report in Nature. "We electronically plugged into the biochemical system of cells," said senior author Mark Reed, Harold Hodgkinson Professor of Engineering & Applied Science.

Black women may not get the full benefits of mammogram screenings because the results are not adequately communicated, according to a new study by Yale Public Health researchers in the March issue of American Journal of Public Health.

Using artificial atoms on a chip, Yale physicists have taken the next step toward quantum computing by demonstrating that the particle nature of microwave photons can now be detected, according to a report spotlighted in the February 1 issue of the journal Nature. The collaborative research from the laboratory of Professor Robert Schoelkopf and the theory group of Professor Steven Girvin in the departments of Applied Physics and Physics at Yale created an electronic circuit that stores and measures individual microwave photons.

Yale Provost Andrew Hamilton has announced that Paul Fleury, Dean of Engineering, will be the new Director of the Yale Institute for Nanoscience and Quantum Engineering (YINQE), a program launched in October 2006 to build on existing research strengths in Yale sciences and engineering, and to broaden the interdisciplinary activity among faculty and students across the university.

Nature uses alpha-amino acid building blocks to assemble the proteins that make life as we know it possible. Chemists at Yale now report evidence that nature could have used a different building block - beta-amino acids - and show that peptides assembled from beta-amino acids can fold into structures much like natural protein. "The x-ray structure featured in the report shows a molecule that shares many of the structural characteristics of natural proteins," said principal author Alanna Schepartz, the Milton Harris '29 Ph.D. Professor of Chemistry at Yale and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor.

While human changes to the environment cause conservation biologists to worry about species extinction, Yale biologists are reversing the logic by trying to trap viruses in habitats that force their extinction, according to a report in Ecology Letters. To avoid going extinct a population must not only survive, but also reproduce. Paul Turner, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale, tested the practicality of luring a virus population into the wrong cells within the human body, thus preventing virus reproduction and alleviating disease.

Long-term exposure to marijuana smoke is linked to many of the same health problems as tobacco smoke, such as increased respiratory symptoms like cough, phlegm and wheeze, according to a new study by researchers at Yale School of Medicine. First author Jeanette M. Tetrault, M.D., and colleagues sought to find the relationship between marijuana smoking and pulmonary function or respiratory complications.

To help physicians non-invasively identify women at risk for preterm birth, 3-D ultrasound was used to measure the size of fetal adrenal glands, according to an abstract presented by Yale School of Medicine researchers at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Conference February 8 in San Francisco. First author was Ozhan Turan, postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine. Turan conducted the study with senior author Catalin Buhimschi, M.D. director of Perinatal Research at Yale Ob/Gyn.

Abnormal proteins in amniotic fluid that signal a higher risk of delivering prematurely are being detected with increasing accuracy by Yale School of Medicine researchers who presented their work in two abstracts at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Conference February 8 in San Francisco. First author was Irina Buhimschi, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine.

Pregnancy at age 40 and beyond is an independent risk factor for intrauterine fetal demise or stillbirth, according to an abstract presented by Yale School of Medicine researchers at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Conference February 10 in San Francisco. First author was Mert Ozan Bhatiyar, professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine.

There is an increased risk of fetal heart problems when mothers carry particular antibodies associated with rheumatic diseases, according to an abstract presented by Yale School of Medicine researchers at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Conference February 9 in San Francisco. Joshua Copel, M.D., professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale helped conduct the PR Interval and Dexamethasone Evaluation (PRIDE) study with a team of other researchers to evaluate an early marker of cardiac injury before there is permanent scarring.

Yale engineers who study both flow hydrodynamics and how bacteria propel themselves report that one reason for the high incidence of infections associated with catheters in hospital patients may be that some pathogenic bacteria swim "to the left," in a study published in Physical Review Letters. "Escherichia coli (E. coli) and some other pathogenic bacteria with flagella interact with the flow of liquid when they are near a surface," said Hür Köser, assistant professor of electrical engineering at Yale and the study's senior author, who has collaborated with a diverse team of scientists for this study.

The contaminant bisphenol-A (BPA)-widely used to make many plastics found in food storage containers and dental products-can have long-term effects in female development, according to a recent study by Yale School of Medicine researchers. Lead investigator Hugh S. Taylor, M.D., associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences (Ob/Gyn) at Yale, said the study shows that BPA changes the expression of key developmental genes that form the uterus.

Contrary to accepted theory, yearning and acceptance are the two most salient emotions individuals experience after a significant loss, according to a Yale School of Medicine study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "We found that disbelief was not the initial, dominant grief indicator," said lead author Paul Maciejewski, assistant professor of psychiatry and director of the Statistical Modeling Core of Women's Health Research at Yale.

Yale School of Medicine researcher Joshua A. Copel, M.D., professor in the Departments of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and Pediatrics, recently received the Dru Carlson Award for Research in Ultrasound and Genetics from the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) at their 27th Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Even mildly elevated levels of uric acid in the elderly are associated with slower thinking and memory problems, according to a report by researchers at Yale and Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine in Neuropsychology. "These findings suggest that high normal concentrations of serum uric acid should be added to the growing list of cardiovascular and metabolic biomarkers of mild cognitive impairment among elderly adults," said Godfrey Pearlson, M.D., psychiatry professor at Yale and co-author of the study.

Yale School of Medicine autism experts Fred R. Volkmar, M.D., and Ami Klin are part of a global research consortium from 19 countries that identified an individual gene and a region of a chromosome that may lead to autism in children. The findings are published online in Nature Genetics and also will be published in the journal's March print edition.

The Sloan Foundation announced that three exceptional young scientists at Yale University will be honored as two-year Research Fellows. Those named at Yale are Assistant Professor Jack Harris (Physics and Applied Physics), Associate Professor Brian Scassellati (Computer Science), Assistant Professor Susumu Tomita (Cellular & Molecular Physiology, and the Interdepartmental Neurosciences Program).

Researchers at Yale have identified multiple pathogenic "alien islands" in the genome of the *A. baumannii*, bacteria that has been responsible for new and highly drug-resistant infections in combat troops in the Middle East, according to a report in the March 1 issue of *Genes and Development*. "Drug resistant bacterial infections are a rapidly growing problem in hospital settings, and now in difficult conditions of combat. We targeted *A. baumannii* as a growing threat for our troops in Iraq," said s principal investigator Michael Snyder, the Lewis B Cullman Professor of Molecular Cellular & Developmental Biology. "Having the genome sequence of this microbe is critical for understanding how it harms humans."

Two distinguished Yale scientists have been named Senior Scholars in Aging research by the Ellison Medical Foundation. Named at Yale are Frank J. Slack, associate professor of molecular, cellular and Developmental biology, and Sandra L. Wolin, professor of cell biology and of molecular biophysics & biochemistry.

For more member news, see the [Feb 2007 issue of CURE News](#)

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