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## Events Column

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

**5/10** Donaghue Foundation Conference. "Beyond Eureka! Closing the Gap Between Health Resources & Use; New Approaches from Philanthropy, Business and Healthcare." Reception to follow. Hilton Hotel, Hartford. [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](#)

**6/21-23** Convergence - The Life Sciences Leaders Forum. Martha's Vineyard, MA. [more](#)

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## Connecticut Enters BIO with Star in Ascendancy *From the desk of Paul Pescatello, President and CEO of CURE*

BIO 07, this year's BIO international convention, will be held in Boston May 6-9, and Connecticut goes into BIO with its star on the rise. CURE has organized a very attractive Connecticut pavilion. We have momentum from a highly successful stem cell event last March, and Connecticut companies can point to significant progress recently.

[For the full story](#)



## CURE in the News



Recent press coverage focuses on the StemCONN 07 stem cell symposium held at the end of March. Radio and TV as well as print publications covered the event. Highlights include an interview with Paul Pescatello on "All Things Considered," the national NPR news

program. In other news, a reporter visits the BioBus.

[For the full story](#)

## CURE Member News Digest

- **454 Life Sciences** to be sold to Roche
- **Achillion Pharmaceuticals** validates NS4A antagonist
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- **SBIR** awards nanotechnology grants
- **UConn** confirms potential of cell fusion technique
- **Vion** extends manufacturing agreement for its anti-cancer agent
- **Yale** identifies heart disease gene defect

[For the full story](#)



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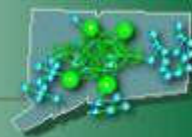
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CURE Member News Digest

## Connecticut Enters BIO with Star in Ascendancy

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

BIO 07, this year's BIO international convention, will be held in Boston May 6-9. This places the convention in the cradle of the biotechnology industry, which is also our back yard.

CURE has organized a very attractive Connecticut pavilion, in concert with our partners Connecticut Innovations and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. The space will be twice as large as last year's, with new graphics.



A Connecticut Showcase will feature posters and exhibits by CURE member companies, research entities, and bioscience support firms. The State has provided subsidies to encourage members to exhibit, enabling us to offer space at a reasonable cost in a format that gives participants time to attend seminars and the other business of BIO 07.

Jonathan Rothberg of RainDance Technologies will be hosting a reception featuring Connecticut wines and cheeses. Furthermore, we'll be showing two videos at the pavilion, one a compilation of exhibiting organizations, and the other the stem cell research video that was created as part of the recent StemCONN stem cell symposium.

CURE and Connecticut are going into BIO in Boston on the momentum generated by a highly successful stem cell event last March. Media coverage of the event was substantial (see the article in this issue). So was participation in the event by Connecticut lawmakers, including Senate President Donald Williams, State Representative Peggy Sayers, and Governor Jodi Rell herself.

The quality of the event was outstanding, attracting not only top international stem cell experts, but also serious discussion of political and social implications of stem cell research.

Connecticut can be proud, as we go into BIO, that our state took the lead in organizing the first-ever panel promoting collaboration among states that are financing stem cell research. Nothing could provide a more timely counterpoint to the recent stem cell news from Washington.

And we can take pride as well at being among the first to address the commercial implications in a panel that featured some distinguished experts: Joe Hammang of Pfizer, Charles Jennings of the McGovern Institute, Peter Longo of Connecticut Innovations, Stacy Taylor of DLA Piper Us, and Ed Wirth of Geron Corporation.

Finally, we go into BIO with Connecticut companies having recently announced significant progress in their individual missions. For example, Protein Sciences of Meriden recently completed a trial that adds to the evidence that their FluBIØk™ vaccine is safe and effective, and the FDA has advised that the drug could qualify for accelerated approval. And Alexion of Cheshire has received marketing approval from the FDA for Soliris™, the first therapy approved for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH). (See the related items in this issue's Member News.)

In a word, Connecticut goes into BIO with its head held high and its bioscience star in the ascendancy. I look forward to seeing you there.

## CURE in the News

### News About StemCONN 07



On March 22, CURE's Paul Pescatello appeared on the *WTNH-TV* Ch 8 to discuss the upcoming StemCONN 07 stem cell symposium. "It brings focus to a center of excellence we've created here in Connecticut," Pescatello says. [more \(44mb\)](#)

Writing of the upcoming conference, a March 23 article in *Mass HighTech* says that Connecticut has leaped ahead of Massachusetts and other states in the stem cell area. Planned and led by CURE together with the Connecticut Department of Health and the Connecticut Stem Cell Coalition, and organized and implemented through CURE with primary financial support from CURE as lead sponsor, the event attracted more than 650 registered participants to packed sessions at the Capitol, Legislative Office Building, and Hilton Hartford. [more](#)

Interviewed by Harriet Jones of *WNPR* on March 26, Pescatello says that Connecticut should be proud of its broad and deep support for stem cell research. The upcoming symposium (which opened the following day) is a "celebration of what we've done," Pescatello says. [more](#) Pescatello also talks with *WNPR*'s Ray Hardman about the ethics and prospects for commercialization of stem cell research. [more](#) Also on March 26, Pescatello tells anchor John Silva of *WDRC-AM* that the upcoming stem cell event will help celebrate all we've done here in Connecticut in the biosciences.

On March 27, the first day of the stem cell symposium, *WVIT-TV* Ch 30 in Hartford broadcasts a report that includes remarks from Pescatello: "Really, the highest paying jobs, the jobs with the biggest ripple effect across the Connecticut economy are bioscience jobs. And stem cell research is the bioscience of the future."

A March 28 article in the *Hartford Courant* covers the commercialization panel featured the first day of StemCONN 07. "This is tremendous technology, but it's going to take a fair amount of time to develop," says Joseph Hammang, senior director of science policy and public affairs for Pfizer. Covering the same panel, the *Hartford Business Journal* on March 29 writes: "The search for a piece of the state's \$100 million commitment to stem cells is happening around the edges, but it is coming from all parts of the state."

The evening of March 28 Pescatello was a guest on "New England Business Today" on the *New England Cable Network*. "We're very lucky in Connecticut," Pescatello says. "We have broad and deep consensus. This research is good for patients and good for the economy of Connecticut."

Both the *Hartford Courant* and the *Day* (New London) honored StemCONN 07 with editorials. "Connecticut can be proud that it has persevered in its support for this important, potentially lifesaving research," the *Courant* writes. [more](#) "Connecticut and several other states have wisely provided funding for this important field of study," writes the *Day*. [more](#)

Reporting from the symposium, Joe Palca of *NPR* quotes Pescatello on *NPR*'s "All Things Considered": "There are only going to be a few cutting-edge stem cell research centers built around the world, whether Cambridge, England or Cambridge, Massachusetts or Connecticut. We are in the game, and we will be one of those stem cell research centers." [more](#)

An April 1 story in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* suggests that Connecticut may have pulled ahead of Massachusetts and some other states. "StemCONN 07 was more than just another meeting," the paper's Lisa Eckelberger writes. "The two-day event was designed to mark Connecticut's arrival in the high-profile world of state-funded stem-cell research."

### Other News

On Feb 14, CURE's Paul Pescatello joined a panel on *WHC-TV* Ch 5 in Hartford discussing the cost of housing in Connecticut. Pescatello points out that high housing costs can make an area a less advantageous place to live and work.

A Feb 25 article in the *Hartford Courant* discusses the fate of CT companies that are acquired by new parent companies from outside the state. Pescatello says that acquisition of a Connecticut company by an out-of-state firm isn't necessarily a loss for the state. He points to the 2004 acquisition of the former Protometrix by California's Invitrogen, which continues to have a thriving Connecticut presence. [more](#)

A Feb 26 article in the "Career Ladder" section of the *Hartford Courant* notes the appointment of Sarah Berke as director of BioBus Educational Programs and the promotion of Kerry Donahue to senior staff scientist.

A March 24 article in the *Greenwich Time* covers a BioConnection visit to Greenwich Catholic School. BioConnection delivers a real-world science experience, staff scientist Nancy Kennure tells the paper. [more](#)

**Previous CURE in the News (Feb 2007 issue) [View](#)**

## CURE Member News Digest

**454 Life Sciences** (Branford) and Roche have signed a definitive merger agreement under which Roche will acquire 454 Life Sciences Corporation, a majority-owned subsidiary of CuraGen Corporation. Under the terms of the agreement 454 Life Sciences' shareholders will receive up to \$154.9 million in cash of which Roche will pay \$140 million in cash, and up to approximately \$14.9 million will be received from the exercise of stock options issued and outstanding prior to the acquisition.

CuraGen established 454 Life Sciences as a majority-owned subsidiary in 2000 with the mission of developing and commercializing next-generation sequencing technology. 454 Life Sciences and Roche signed a research and marketing collaboration in May 2005 that extends until September 30, 2010, under which Roche Diagnostics has been acting as the exclusive worldwide distributor of the Genome Sequencer systems and associated reagents to all markets with the exception of regulated diagnostics.

**Achillion Pharmaceuticals** (New Haven) announced April 16 the presentation of data validating the clinical antiviral activity of one of Achillion's NS4A antagonists, ACH-806, for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. "This study provides the first demonstration of human antiviral activity of an NS4A antagonist for HCV," said John Pottage, M.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Achillion. "While we and our partner Gilead decided to discontinue development of ACH-806 based upon the increase in serum creatinine levels, we do not believe this effect was target-related. The antiviral activity of the compound validates NS4A as a novel therapeutic target and therefore supports our continued work with Gilead to identify and evaluate next-generation compounds with the same mechanism of action."

Achillion raised net proceeds of approximately \$53.4 million in an initial public offering of its common stock that closed on October 25, 2006.

**Alexion Pharmaceuticals** (Cheshire) has received marketing approval from the FDA for Soliris™ (eculizumab). Soliris is the first therapy approved for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH), a rare, disabling and life-threatening blood disorder defined by chronic red blood cell destruction, or hemolysis. Soliris is indicated for the treatment of patients with PNH to reduce hemolysis.

*Alexion said it has canceled a joint effort with Procter & Gamble regarding the anti-inflammatory pexelizumab.*

**Applied Spine Technologies** (New Haven) announced that Triangle Orthopaedic Associates and North Carolina Specialty Hospital (NCSH), an acute care facility located in Durham, N.C., are the first in the U.S. to implant the Company's *Stabilimax NZ Dynamic Spine Stabilization System* as part of a randomized, controlled clinical trial, which will compare posterior dynamic stabilization using the *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 are expected to be enrolled in all of the trials.

**Bayer HealthCare** (West Haven, CT) has named Sandra S. Oliver Vice President, Public Policy & State Government Affairs. In this role, Sandy will continue to oversee all Public Policy and State Government Affairs activities for all divisions of Bayer HealthCare, including Pharmaceuticals (including Biologicals), Consumer Care, Diabetes Care, and Animal Health in the United States.

In 2006, **Boehringer Ingelheim** (Danbury/Ingelheim, Germany) grew faster than the pharmaceutical market for the seventh successive year. For 2007, Boehringer Ingelheim expects high single-figure growth of net sales slightly above the market. The Americas was the company's region with the highest sales. The USA alone contributed strong growth of almost

20%.

*The antidepressant duloxetine, at a once-daily dose of 60 mg, significantly reduced non-specific pain and emotional symptoms associated with depression in a new, eight-week, placebo-controlled study of 327 adult patients with at least moderate pain and major depression. The results were presented at the 15th European Congress of Psychiatry (AEP) in Madrid, Spain. Duloxetine, is approved in more than 70 countries for the treatment of major depression. Duloxetine also is approved in the United States and Mexico for the treatment of generalised anxiety disorder.*

**Connecticut Innovations** (Rocky Hill) has completed a seed-stage investment of \$500,000 in Stevens Proof of Concept Inc. (SPOC) of Stamford, Connecticut. CI made this investment through its Connecticut BioSeed Fund. SPOC has developed a proprietary point-of-care medical diagnostic system, consisting of a medical device and methodology that pinpoint the specific myofascial (muscle) trigger points causing pain

**CuraGen** (Branford) CuraGen and TopoTarget have initiated Phase II trial of Belinostat (PXD101) in combination with Velcade® for refractory multiple myeloma. The trial is being led by James Berenson, M.D., Principal Investigator, Medical & Scientific Director at the Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research, and will be conducted at multiple sites across the U.S. Up to 35 patients are planned for study enrollment with preliminary results anticipated by the end of 2007.

**Invitrogen** (Carlsbad, CA) has announced a partnership with Emiliem, Inc. to screen the company's multi-kinase inhibitors using Invitrogen's SelectScreen™ platform. Invitrogen will perform biochemical kinase screening, cellular pathway profiling and P450 screening of Emiliem's compounds targeting cancer.

*Invitrogen and ScienceXperts have launched CytoGenie™ a knowledge-based software tool that simplifies the design of flow cytometry experiments, including multicolor protocols whose complexity amplifies dramatically as more parameters are detected. The software package, available at [www.invitrogen.com/flowcytometry](http://www.invitrogen.com/flowcytometry) as a free resource to scientists, greatly simplifies the process of selecting the optimal reagent to maximize the performance and results from the flow cytometer.*

**NanoViricides** (West Haven) has announced that its Form 10-SB, filed on November 14, 2006, has been declared effective by the SEC, making the company eligible to have its common stock quoted on the NASD Over-The-Counter Bulletin Board upon approval of a recently-submitted application. NanoViricides cannot predict when its shares of common stock will begin trading on the OTC Bulletin Board but believes it now meets all requirements. NanoViricides is a development stage company that is creating special purpose nanomaterials for viral therapy.

*NanoViricides has leased 5,000 square feet of an R&D facility originally built for the Bayer Pharmaceutical Corporation in Woodbridge, CT. The modern space will enable the company to expand its research activities towards development of new drug candidates and support NanoViricides' anticipated growth, according to Eugene Seymour, MD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer.*

In a recent discussion of results for the year, William H. Koster, Ph.D, President and CEO of **Neurogen** (Branford) said, "2006 was a great year for Neurogen--arguably the best year in the Company's history--and it positioned us to report key data during 2007. In addition to two Phase 2b trials underway in chronic insomnia with our insomnia agent, NG2-73, we have an on-going Phase 2a proof-of-concept study in dental pain with our VR-1 antagonist NGD 8243/MK2295 being conducted by our partner Merck (NYSE: MRK). We are also advancing our MCH1 antagonist, NGD 4715, for obesity in Phase I studies. By the end of 2007 we plan to initiate two Phase 2 programs with our partial D2 agonist, Aplindore, for Parkinson's disease and Restless Legs Syndrome and to transition NGD 4715 into a Phase 2 proof-of-concept trial for obesity. Consequently, by the end of 2007 we anticipate that Neurogen will have five Phase 2 programs running simultaneously."

**Pfizer Inc.** (New York, NY/Groton/New London) Pfizer has announced that Lipitor® (atorvastatin calcium) Tablets (80 mg) lowered hospitalization costs by significantly reducing the risk of cardiovascular events in patients with heart disease, according to two separate economic analyses. Patients who took Lipitor had fewer cardiovascular events and lower hospitalization costs. The data were presented at the recent annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology. At the same meeting, data was presented showing that Lipitor® (atorvastatin calcium) Tablets 10 mg provided a significant 61 percent reduction in stroke in patients with type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome but without heart disease. In a separate study, patients who had suffered a recurrent stroke or mini-stroke during the trial had a significant 53 percent reduction in the risk of major coronary events (death from cardiac causes, heart attack, or resuscitation after cardiac arrest) with Lipitor 80 mg. American College of Cardiology.

After [testifying on Capitol Hill](#) about the dangers of drug importation, President and CEO Billy Tauzin of **PhRMA** (Washington, DC) issued a statement saying that importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries could threaten patient safety and impact the future innovation of life-saving medicines. He also said that in addition to safety concerns, studies have found that total savings to consumers would be minimal and that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, most of the savings would likely go to third party payers, not patients.

An article in the April 11 Journal of the American Medical Association reported positive results in a randomized trial of the FluBIØk™ vaccine developed by **Protein Sciences Corporation** (Meriden). "We've shown that the vaccine works in the real world," said Dr. John Treanor of the University of Rochester Medical Center, a lead investigator in the study.

The School of Communications at **Quinnipiac University** (Hamden) will offer high school juniors and seniors interested in broadcast journalism an opportunity to learn how to work in front of the cameras and behind the scenes in television news this summer during an intensive one-week program. The Television News Institute for high school students will take place from July 9 -13 in the Ed McMahon Mass Communications Center at Quinnipiac. As part of Quinnipiac's support for StemCONN 07, facilities at the School of Communications were used to tape a public forum on stem cell issues that will be broadcast in the near future.

**SBIR** (East Hartford) has awarded three winners in its state-funded, pilot program designed to promote emerging nanotechnologies and new product development by small businesses in Connecticut. The winners are Mott Corporation (Farmington), Mystic MD (New London), and GenCell Corporation (Southbury). Each company will receive \$65,000 in seed money.

**Vion Pharmaceuticals** (New Haven) has extended its agreement with SAFC, a member of the Sigma-Aldrich Group, for its lead anticancer agent Cloretazine® (VNP40101M) to September 2009. SAFC will continue to manufacture Cloretazine® (VNP40101M) active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). Alan Kessman, Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We are pleased to be able to extend our relationship with SAFC to manufacture Cloretazine® (VNP40101M) API. We have had an excellent relationship with SAFC since 2003 and look forward to continuing to work with them on our lead anticancer agent as it gets closer to a potential registration."

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

A newly published study by UConn researchers confirms the potential of reprogramming cells by cell fusion. The technique can create stem cells for use in research, without harming embryos. The study is likely to intensify mounting scientific interest in reprogramming ordinary adult cells – somatic cells – back to their pristine condition when they were stem cells in the embryo. The researchers, led by Theodore Rasmussen of UConn's Center for Regenerative Biology; Rachel O'Neill of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology; and Winfried Krueger of the UConn Health Center's Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology, reported their findings in the online edition of Stem Cells, a highly regarded journal that focuses on stem cell research. Dominic Ambrosi, a doctoral student in molecular and cell biology, is first author on the paper. [more](#)

The Patrick & Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation has pledged \$1.75 million to name and support The Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research Into Practice and Policy (TRIPP) at the Health Center. The center is the result of a year-long planning effort, led by Dr. Judith Fifield and advised by an interdisciplinary team from across the University. Its mission directly responds to the National Institutes of Health "Roadmap" initiative to foster practice-oriented health services research and researchers. [more](#)

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

Yale School of Medicine researchers have identified a rare defect in a single gene that poses a substantial risk for metabolic syndrome and early heart disease, the leading cause of death worldwide. The international study, led by Arya Mani, M.D., assistant professor of cardiology, and Richard Lifton, M.D., chair of genetics at Yale, identifies a new pathway implicated in heart disease. Even though the genetic mutation is very rare, these findings point to new approaches for improving this aspect of health.

*A treatment for polycystic kidney disease (PKD), a leading cause of fatal kidney failure worldwide, has been identified by a research team led by Yale biochemist Craig Crews, according to a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Over 12 million people worldwide suffer from PKD, a genetic disorder that causes uncontrolled growth of cells lining tubules in the kidneys, and results in the formation of many, large fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys. "Unfortunately, aside from kidney transplantation, there has been no cure for PKD, nor has there been a suitable drug treatment to slow its progression," said Crews, associate professor of chemistry, molecular, cellular & developmental biology and pharmacology. "We hope that is about to change," he said.*

Antidepressants increase the presence of a growth factor in the brain, which then leads to a proliferation of new cells, according to a study by Yale School of Medicine researchers in this week's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study describes for the first time the molecular mechanisms and the identity of the protein, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which underlie the actions of antidepressants on new cell growth and behavior. "One in five Americans have depression, yet the neural mechanisms underlying depression and the actions of antidepressants remain unknown," said Ronald Duman, senior author and professor of psychiatry at Yale. "These findings provide important, fundamental, and new information on the actions of these highly prescribed drugs. The data also has implications for understanding many stress related disorders."

*Researchers at the Yale School of Medicine Child Study Center and 10 other institutions will share a \$10 million gift from James and Marilyn Simons of The Simons Foundation to create a databank of DNA samples from autism patients around the country. The goal is to collect a total of 3,000 samples from autism patients around the country to help identify different variants of autism and develop treatments. The principal investigators at Yale, Ami Klin and Matthew State, M.D., have received \$1.2 million for three years to collect DNA samples from patients completing clinical evaluations or research protocols at the Autism Program at the Yale Child Study Center.*

A lack of funds to pay for medical treatment and prescriptions is common among heart attack patients and leads to a worse recovery, more angina, poorer quality of life and higher risk of re-hospitalization, according to a study by researchers at Yale School of Medicine. Published in the March 14 issue of Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the study sought to determine if self-reported financial barriers to health care services or medication were associated with worse patient outcomes.

*The "default mode," or baseline condition when the brain is idling, is not properly coordinated in patients with schizophrenia and this aberrant activity may be caused by poor connectivity between brain networks, a Yale School of Medicine researcher reports. Co-author Godfrey Pearlson, M.D., professor of psychiatry, said he and his colleagues found that regions of the brain known previously to be individually abnormal in patients with schizophrenia, also function abnormally in concert in the default mode network.*

Yale School of Medicine researchers have received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study neurons that play a major role in narcolepsy. Narcolepsy is a neurodegenerative disease characterized by daytime sleepiness. The NIH grant will further Yale research into narcolepsy and other disorders linked to neurons that produce the peptide hypocretin. "The activity of these hypocretin cells is important for enhancing cognitive arousal and resisting sleep, and they may also play a role in anxiety and body weight regulation," said the principal investigator, Anthony van den Pol, neurosurgery professor.

*Proteins released by the placenta may damage blood vessels in women with preeclampsia (PE), according to an abstract presented by Yale School of Medicine researchers at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation Conference March 17 in Reno, Nevada. In PE, a complication of pregnancy linked to life-threatening increases in high blood pressure after 20 weeks of gestation, it has long been recognized that substances called "microparticles" released by the placenta damage maternal blood vessels. Researchers at Yale, led by Seth Guller, sought to detect whether specific proteins were found in microparticles.*

In Hispanic women, four gene variants are linked to spontaneous preterm birth, according to abstracts presented by researchers at Yale School of Medicine and Washington University at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation Conference in Reno, Nevada on March 16. Preterm birth is a major cause of illness and death in newborns. A genetic cause of preterm birth was suggested by racial disparity, a tendency to occur within families and a high rate of recurrence, according to Errol Norwitz, M.D., associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale and lead investigator of the study.

*Yale University researchers have released results of a study showing clearly that soft drinks are associated with increased caloric intake, higher body weight, a decrease in calcium and other nutrients, and increased risk of Type II diabetes. "It is alarming that industry-funded studies so consistently favor industry and that these reports muddy what are otherwise clear waters," said Kelly D. Brownell, director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale. "Studies funded by the food industry simply did not find the degree of negative health effects from soft drinks that independent scholars discovered."*

Alan Garen, professor of molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale has received a \$100,000 award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation to expand research on the delivery of a targeted therapy for prostate cancer using nanoparticles. Garen and his collaborator Zhiwei Hu have developed a way to directly target and destroy the blood vessels of solid tumors, thus destroying the tumors while leaving normal tissue unharmed.

*Teen smokers exposed to nicotine in the womb have trouble looking at or listening to something attentively, Yale School of Medicine researcher and associate professor of psychiatry, Leslie Jacobsen, reports in Neuropsychopharmacology. The study also found a difference between girls and boys who have a smoking and/or nicotine exposure history. The girls had problems in both looking and listening during the word recognition exercises. The boys had more problems listening while doing the exercises. "This suggests that brain regions involved in auditory attention may be more vulnerable to nicotine in boys," Jacobsen said. "These gender-specific effects may result from differences in hormonal control of nicotine's actions."*

The best way to contain a flu epidemic is to vaccinate children, not the elderly, which is the current practice, a Yale School of Medicine researcher reports in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The lead author, Alison Galvani, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, examined her data in the context of a population game known as the "Nash strategy." Under this strategy devised by Nobel Prize winning economist John Nash, self-interest usually trumps the greater good.

*A new analysis of both estrogen and estrogen plus progestin data from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) hormone trials in the Journal of the American Medical Association shows a 24 percent reduction in risk for coronary heart disease events in women starting hormone therapy less than 10 years after menopause. "In this study, hormone therapy reduced overall mortality in the younger menopausal women," said lead investigator of the KEEPS trial at Yale, Hugh S. Taylor, M.D., associate professor in the Departments of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and Molecular Cellular & Developmental Biology. "It is important not to trivialize quality of life. No one should tell women to put up with hot flashes to avoid serious risk, if in reality this therapy saves lives."*

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

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