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## Events Column

**10/18** 8:30 am - 11:00 am.  
Roundtable & Networking: "Lab  
Decontamination & Chemical  
Moves." Sponsored by  
Triumvirate Environmental.  
Crowne Plaza, Hartford, CT. [more](#)

**10/24** 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.  
CURE and Yale OCR Present:  
BioRelix. A BioHaven  
Entrepreneurship Seminar.  
Anlyan Center, Congress  
Avenue, New Haven, CT.  
Reception and networking to  
follow. CT. [more](#)

**11/13** 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm.  
CURE and Yale OCR Present:  
Vascular Insights LLC. A  
BioHaven Entrepreneurship  
Seminar. Reception and  
networking to follow. Anlyan  
Center, Congress Avenue, New  
Haven, CT. Watch for details.

**12/4** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm.  
CURE Annual Meeting. Achillion  
Conference Room, 300 George  
Street, New Haven, CT. Watch  
for details.

**12/4** 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.  
CURE Holiday Party. Location  
TBD. "New Haven's best holiday  
networking event." Watch for  
details.

**2/20** 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.  
CURE and Yale OCR Present: Rib-  
X. A BioHaven Entrepreneurship  
Seminar. Anlyan Center,  
Congress Avenue, New Haven,  
CT. Reception and networking  
to follow. Watch for details.

**3/19** 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.  
CURE and Yale OCR Present:  
Optherion. A BioHaven  
Entrepreneurship Seminar.  
Anlyan Center, Congress  
Avenue, New Haven, CT.  
Reception and networking to  
follow. Watch for details.

## BioBus Hostage to Bond Package Impasse *From the desk of Paul Pescatello, President and CEO of CURE*

With the adoption of a core science curriculum by the state, the moment is at hand to substantially expand the depth and reach of CURE's popular BioBus Educational Programs. With that in mind, the BioBus staff has put together exciting plans to develop regional service centers throughout the state and has upgraded its curriculum and professional development initiatives. Unfortunately, these enhancements are now in jeopardy because the state bond package, for the second year in a row, is stalled due to General Assembly-Gubernatorial disagreement.

[For the full story](#)



## Pfizer Names Martin McKay to Top R&D Position

Pfizer on Oct 4 named Dr. Martin Mackay president of Pfizer Global Research and Development (PGRD); launched an independent, stand-alone biotherapeutics and bioinnovation center under the direction of scientist and entrepreneur Dr. Corey Goodman; and named Dr. Briggs Morrison, who held senior research and development positions at Merck, as its new head of clinical development for the PGRD pipeline.

[For the full story](#)

## CURE Tells Industry Story with Congressman Chris Murphy and at Quinnipiac University

Two high-profile meetings last month gave CURE a platform for telling the pharma/biotech story. The events, held Sept 24 in Waterbury and Hamden, included a discussion of the industry's bright future combined with a cautionary tale of the market and regulatory forces that could limit the its ability, over time, to discover and develop new lifesaving medicines.

[For the full story](#)

**3/26** Connecticut Innovations Annual Technology Celebration. The Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT. [more](#)

**4/16** 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm. CURE and Yale OCR Present: *The Next Big Idea - Creating a New Venture*. A Special BioHaven Entrepreneurship Panel with Roger Longman of Windhover Publications. Reception and networking to follow. Anlyan Center, Congress Avenue, New Haven, CT. Watch for details.

**4/23** 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. CURE and Yale OCR Present: Vidus Ocular. A BioHaven Entrepreneurship Seminar. Anlyan Center, Congress Avenue, New Haven, CT. Reception and networking to follow. Watch for details.

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## Tech Transfer for the Rest of Us

Technology transfer has become a dynamic force at major research universities – but how can smaller schools tap into this trend? Enter Ben Muskin, whose new consulting business helps schools with smaller research budgets get the most out of their intellectual assets.

**For the full story**

## BioRelix Opens New Yale BioHaven Series

Presented by CURE and Yale OCR, the Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship Series opens a new season this Oct 24 at the Anlyan Center with a presentation by BioRelix, a Yale spin-out developing antibiotics that target microbial RNA. Founder Ronald Breaker, Ph.D., and interim CEO Ronald Lennox, D. Phil., will present.

**For the full story**



## BioBus and BioConnection Visits Scheduled



Sixty-five schools from across Connecticut will challenge their students with advanced life science experiments this academic year.

Twenty-six of the schools will host the BioBus, Connecticut's one-of-a-kind mobile laboratory on wheels. Others will use similar equipment on loan through BioConnection.

**For the full story**

## CURE Member News Digest

- **454 Life Sciences** finds honeybee virus
- **Achillion** appoints David Wright to board
- **Alexion** reports clot reduction following Soliris™ treatments
- **Bayer HealthCare** reports start of Phase III MS trials
- **Boehringer Ingelheim** adds to Ridgefield campus
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb** to acquire Adnexus Therapeutics
- **Cara Therapeutics** builds out with \$4 million from CI
- **Connecticut Innovations** seeds New Ortho Polymers
- **CuraGen** names Timothy Shannon president and CEO
- **GlaxoSmithKline** reports Avodart® studies
- **Hartford Hospital** appoints Detlef Wencker to Heart Center
- **HistoRx** to provide AQUA® technology to NCI-funded group
- **Invitrogen** awarded summer olympics contract
- **Ipsogen** signs agreement with XENOMICS
- **Johnson & Johnson** reports Phase III interleukin results
- **NanoViricides** sees drug filing in two years
- **Neurogen** names Stephen Davis president
- **Optherion** lease Long Wharf space
- **Pfizer** says British study backs Lipitor
- **PhRMA** testifies on counterfeit drug problem
- **Praxair** named to Dow Jones index
- **Protein Sciences Corporation** (Meriden) licenses FluBIØk
- **Vion Pharmaceuticals** to test Cloretazine® on gliomas
- Dr. Laura Grabel of **Wesleyan University** interviewed by WNPR
- **UConn Health Center** finds key to vision loss

- **Yale** offers new view of genetic variability  
**For the full story**



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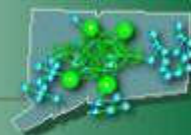
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Wednesday, October 10, 2007

## BioBus Hostage to Bond Package Impasse

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

With the adoption of a core curriculum science framework by the state of Connecticut, the moment is at hand to substantially expand the depth and reach of CURE's popular BioBus Educational Programs. With that in mind, the BioBus staff has put together exciting plans to develop regional service centers throughout the state, in order to provide every student in Connecticut with at least three hands-on bioscience experiences during their K-12 education. The staff has also added to its curriculum and upgraded professional development opportunities for teachers.



Although the BioBus Programs rely for funding primarily on CURE members and other private sources, they also have enlisted state support for their planned enhancements. Unfortunately, these are now in jeopardy because the funding is part of a bond package that, for the second year in a row, is stalled as a result of disagreements between Governor Rell and legislative leadership. At the time I write this, Governor Rell has threatened to veto the bonding package that was passed by the General Assembly Sept 20.

I applaud the Governor's efforts to ensure that Connecticut's budgets are fiscally responsible. And I sympathize with her stated aim of deflecting bonding proposals that are weighed down with unrealistic or unjustifiable projects. But for the sake of Connecticut's school children — who so desperately need programs like those delivered by the BioBus to compete for 21st century jobs — we urge General Assembly leadership and the Governor to find common ground and adopt a common sense bond package.

How the popular and highly effective BioBus program has evolved to meet the needs of students and teachers (and heighten science and math standards) are good examples of the adage: "Good things must change to stay the same." This is evident in many aspects of the biopharma business and research and development and is most recently exemplified by CuraGen, the Branford-based biotech.

### **CuraGen — Postive Change to Move Forward**

One of the early stars of the Connecticut bioscience cluster, CuraGen gave rise to two other CURE members, 454 Life Sciences and RainDance Technologies. Recently the company announced plans to refocus its R&D efforts. The company is implementing a business model that is becoming increasingly popular with cutting-edge companies. Rather than attempting to duplicate in house the full range of state-of-the-art R&D equipment and resources necessary to bring a drug from laboratory to market, CuraGen is moving to a system of contracting work to outside sources who specialize in various types of R&D.

The sharpened focus on the pipeline will now be overseen by Dr. Timothy Shannon, who has been executive vice president for R&D at Curagen the past 5 years, and has also just been named president and CEO. The top priorities are three oncology programs including velafermin, belinostat and CR011-vcMMAE, and Shannon is confident that CuraGen will be in at least one Phase III trial in 2008.

Notably CuraGen invested the proceeds of its sale of 454 LifeSciences back into its own R&D efforts. This is a very encouraging sign — CuraGen is serious and optimistic about its pipeline. We'll all be watching the clinical trials results over the next several months.

*Paul R. Pescatello is President and CEO of CURE.*

# Pfizer Names Martin McKay to Top R&D Position

Pfizer on Oct 4 named Dr. Martin Mackay president of Pfizer Global Research and Development (PGRD); launched an independent, stand-alone biotherapeutics and bioinnovation center under the direction of scientist and entrepreneur Dr. Corey Goodman; and named Dr. Briggs Morrison, who held senior research and development positions at Merck, as its new head of clinical development for the PGRD pipeline.

“As the leader of PGRD, Martin Mackay will bring Pfizer’s talent, drug discovery and development experience, capital and technology to bear on increasing the value of our near-term pipeline and bringing new compounds forward to approval,” said Jeff Kindler, Pfizer chairman and CEO. “Martin will drive changes in PGRD’s goals, performance measurements, allocation of resources, culture and leadership so that Pfizer delivers a steady stream of new medicines that represent compelling value to our customers and payers.”

“We are also today launching a new biotherapeutics and bioinnovation center with a unique structure to discover, license and acquire more new product candidates that we can put into development,” said Mr. Kindler. “With this strategy, we are leveraging Pfizer’s excellence in drug discovery and development by complementing it with a distinct, California-based enterprise led by world-class scientists charged with discovering and bringing in new compounds,” he added.

Kindler continued, “Corey Goodman, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, enjoys the highest respect of the worldwide scientific community and brings to Pfizer broad experience with leading scientific institutions as well as the venture and biotech community. He will lead a center that uses advanced applications of cell biology and cutting-edge technologies, sources the best science wherever we find it, and bridges the gap between basic research and drug discovery.”

The center will focus on discovering new medicines as well as securing new technologies and research tools that can be used across all of Pfizer’s therapeutic areas. It will work in a highly collaborative manner both with PGRD and with the academic, biotech and venture communities, not only to focus on delivering new compounds for Pfizer but also on incubating start-ups with new innovative technologies. Dr. Goodman will report to Mr. Kindler and become a member of Pfizer’s Executive Leadership Team.

As the new head of PGRD, Dr. Mackay will also report to Mr. Kindler and join the Pfizer Executive Leadership Team. Dr. Mackay has developed and will pursue a five-point plan to maximize PGRD’s contribution to Pfizer’s growth:

## **1. Aggressively advance the late stage portfolio**

Dr. Mackay said that “with 47 compounds in Phase II across a number of very promising therapeutic areas, we have the opportunity to have more Phase III starts next year than at any time in our history, and my goal is to achieve that milestone.”

To support this critical objective, Dr. Mackay announced that Dr. Briggs Morrison, most recently Senior Vice President of Research Planning and Integration at Merck Research Laboratories and previously head of Global Clinical Development Operations, will join Pfizer as Senior Vice President for Clinical Development. Dr. Morrison will be responsible for the clinical development of all compounds in Pfizer’s portfolio, and he will play a key role in implementing strategies to advance key compounds to approval. He will report to Dr. Mackay, join the PGRD Leadership Team and have the therapeutic area development group heads reporting to him, as well as the head of clinical, quantitative and innovative medicine.

“The hiring of Briggs Morrison reflects an acceleration of our focus on the broad array of candidates in our late stage pipeline,” said Dr. Mackay. “Briggs is a senior executive who has experience with innovative new approaches to drug development and commercialization and played an important role in the transformation of Merck’s clinical development operations. He is ideally suited to overseeing our worldwide clinical development and driving our late-stage candidates to market as speedily as possible.”

## **2. Invest in the best opportunities**

Over the past several months, Dr. Mackay together with Pfizer’s leaders of commercial operations, has led a comprehensive review of the disease areas in which Pfizer conducts research and development in light of a rapidly changing marketplace and what customers expect from new medicines.

“Given the critical need to deliver new and valuable products from our pipeline as fast as possible, I will immediately embark on a systematic review of all of our R&D investments to ensure that we prioritize allocation of funds to our most promising programs,” said Dr. Mackay.

In addition, PGRD will work closely with Pfizer Business Development to secure the best external opportunities in targeted

areas through acquisitions, licensing and development, joint venture and alliances and other collaborative agreements.

### **3. Become a top-tier company in biotherapeutics**

PGRD will work in partnership with the new biotherapeutics center led by Dr. Goodman and continue to build a strong presence in biotherapeutics across research, pharmaceutical sciences and development to establish a top-tier position in biotherapeutics.

Pfizer will aggressively advance the 25 pre-clinical and clinical programs already in its development pipeline, as well as a range of external opportunities, including those developed by the new biotherapeutics and bioinnovation center. Within PGRD, as well as in the new independent center, Pfizer will continue to make investments to substantially expand biotherapeutics capabilities.

### **4. "Dramatically raise the bar" on PGRD productivity**

"We are currently in the final stages of a business transformation program at PGRD, and our goal is to bring these changes to a conclusion with a minimum of disruption, realize their benefits, and then move forward with four major research sites, global platform lines and a very focused drug development team," said Mr. Kindler. "Under Martin's strong leadership and follow-up throughout this process, we have made important progress in streamlining PGRD, consolidating our therapeutic areas, and moving a substantial portion of our investments from bricks and mortar into research and development."

"It is a remarkable reflection on our colleagues that we have maintained productivity over this period," added Dr. Mackay. "In fact, we have completed the transfer of all R&D projects and have relocated hundreds of scientists to other sites. The plans to rapidly develop our late stage pipeline have been put in place and we see good progress on that critical imperative. But we can, and will, dramatically raise the bar on PGRD productivity and establish crystal-clear accountability for meeting our goals. We will move from periodic restructurings to a much more systematic approach of continuous improvement that will put us in the best position to accelerate our productivity gains and speed new medicines to the market. We will take our therapeutic area structure -- which is proving to be highly productive -- to the next level by giving those teams greater flexibility and even more opportunities to create value."

### **5. Pursue the best science outside our walls**

PGRD will seek ways to expand its collaborations with the biotech, academic and biomedical communities to ensure that the best new technology and product candidates get rapidly translated into exciting new therapies and new medicines. Pfizer's Business Development team will work with PGRD to acquire, license and partner on the most important technologies and product candidates. At the same time, Pfizer is actively identifying new discovery partnerships in specific areas and finding opportunities for broad-based collaborations such as the Scripps Institute alliance.

"We began this endeavor in earnest last year with the establishment of our alliance with Scripps and our incubator in La Jolla," said Dr. Mackay. "The collaboration is simply outstanding and the partnership between Pfizer and Scripps scientists is inspirational. Moreover, our incubator is already bearing fruit in terms of new pre-clinical candidates and research tools. We are looking to create more such partnerships and incubators, and we look forward to working closely with our new biotherapeutics and bioinnovation center to create additional alliances and incubators in California and elsewhere," he added.

Prior to being named president, Dr. Mackay was vice president of Pfizer Global R&D and senior vice president of worldwide development, where he oversaw 6,500 Pfizer colleagues across clinical development, development operations, pharmaceutical sciences, drug safety and project and portfolio management as well as 11 therapeutic areas.

Dr. Goodman co-founded two biotech companies, Exelixis and Renovis, and served as the CEO of Renovis. He was a professor of biology at Stanford University for eight years and a professor of neurobiology and genetics at the University of California Berkeley for 18 years, where he remains on the faculty.

Dr. Morrison joined Merck in 1995 and served in senior research and clinical data management positions, including as executive director and vice president for all clinical data management operations.

## **CURE Tells Industry Story with Congressman Chris Murphy and at Quinnipiac University**

Two high-profile meetings last month gave CURE a platform for telling the pharma/biotech story. The events, held Sept 24 in Waterbury and Hamden, included a discussion of the industry's bright future combined with a cautionary tale of the market and regulatory forces that could limit its ability, over time, to discover and develop new lifesaving medicines.

In Waterbury, CURE co-chairman Peter Farina of Boehringer Ingelheim and CURE president and CEO Paul Pescatello joined U.S. Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) for a "Western Connecticut Economic Development Summit." Organized by the Congressman to take a closer look at larger economic trends affecting Western Connecticut, the panel also included Marc LaLande, Ph.D., a leader in Connecticut's stem cell research initiative and head of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Department at UCONN Health Center.

"We agreed that Connecticut's strong and highly skilled workforce could be attractive to some high-paying businesses looking for new site locations. Biological manufacturing is particularly promising for Connecticut with its sophisticated workforce," says Pescatello. "At the same time, we pointed out that these efforts could be derailed if the biopharma's business model is undermined and constraints are put on its ability to conduct R&D."

The Waterbury panel was followed just hours later by a Quinnipiac University recognition event for outstanding faculty and student research. "For the second time in the day I had a chance to connect the dots between R&D and the biopharma business model," Pescatello says.

## **Tech Transfer for the Rest of Us**

Technology transfer has become a dynamic force at major research universities – but how can smaller schools tap into this trend? Enter Ben Muskin, whose new consulting business helps schools with smaller research budgets get the most out of their intellectual assets.

"A large university with an annual research budget of \$25 million or more will typically staff a full-time tech transfer office," Muskin says. "A college with an annual research budget of \$1 million to \$5 million can't justify that arrangement, but still would benefit from a formalized process that delineates its achievements and recognizes their commercial potential."

Muskin, whose extensive background includes heading up business development for biotechnology firm CGI Pharmaceuticals and service as associate director of Yale's tech transfer office, likes to begin an assignment with individual faculty interviews. "We're looking for more than just patentable inventions or intellectual property in the narrow sense," he says. "We want to truly engage the faculty and develop a sense of the full range of an institution's intellectual assets. We want to help extend the professors' inherent creativity in the context of technology transfer. It's both an intellectual and cultural shift that has been embraced in every instance."

In addition to inventorying and assessing assets, Muskin proposes formal policies and procedures for the school to adopt, including such items as revenue sharing policies and procedures for reporting progress both in and outside the school. "The aim is to create an appropriate and sustainable capability for each client," Muskin says.

With policies and procedures in place, Muskin's firm is available to implement them on behalf of his clients. That typically involves continuing to coach faculty and students and to take action on the most important opportunities that have been identified. Current clients include Wesleyan University and Fairfield University.

Muskin is convinced his is the right business at the right time. "In the late 1800s, there was a revolution among universities when schools began to view research, not just teaching, as part of their charter," Muskin says. "Now more and more schools have recognized that not just research per se, but the successful transfer and commercialization of innovations for the betterment of society and the appropriate recognition of the university, is inherent in their mission."

For more information, contact Ben Muskin of R.B. Muskin Associates: [bbmuskin@comcast.net](mailto:bbmuskin@comcast.net) or 203-589-8853.

## **BioRelix Opens New Yale BioHaven Series**

Presented by CURE and Yale OCR, the Yale BioHaven Entrepreneurship Series opens a new season this Oct 24 at the Anlyan Center with a presentation by BioRelix, a Yale spin-out developing antibiotics that target microbial RNA. Founder Ronald Breaker, Ph.D., and interim CEO Ronald Lennox, D. Phil., will present.

The presentation launches a new season for BioHaven, which will include a special panel discussion April 16, "The Next Big Idea – Creating a New Venture," featuring experts from Pfizer, Yale, and Windhover Information.



As in the past, all events will be followed by networking and a wine and cheese bar.

For more on the Oct 24 BioRelix presentation, [click here](#). Other scheduled events are:

- Nov 13      Vascular Insights, which is developing a new treatment for varicose veins
  
- Feb 20      Rib-X Pharmaceuticals, developing antibiotics that target the ribosome, a molecule essential for the viability of all bacterial pathogens
  
- Mar 19      Optherion, dedicated to research, development and commercialization of therapeutics and diagnostics for age-related macular degeneration and other diseases of the alternative complement system
  
- Apr 16      Special BioHaven Panel: The Next Big Idea – Creating a New Venture
  
- Apr 23      Vidus Ocular, developing the Aquashunt™, an innovative medical device for the treatment of glaucoma

## BioBus and BioConnection Visits Scheduled

Sixty-five schools from across Connecticut will challenge their students with advanced life science experiments this academic year. Twenty-six of the schools will host the BioBus, Connecticut's one-of-a-kind mobile laboratory on wheels. Others will use similar equipment in their own classrooms, on loan through BioConnection.

The BioBus and BioConnection are part of the BioBus Educational Programs (<http://ctbiobus.org>), founded by CURE in 2001. Other integral components of the program are curriculum design and teacher training and development. Since its inception, the BioBus Educational Programs have trained more than 600 teachers through professional development workshops and reached more than 52,000 students at over 300 schools.

The BioBus Educational Programs rely on state support, CURE members and other Connecticut businesses for funding.



For the complete 2007 - 2008 schedule of schools for BioBus and BioConnection, [click here](#).

## CURE Member News Digest

Researchers at Columbia University, in collaboration with **454 Life Sciences** (Branford) using the company's Genome Sequencer™ system, have identified a virus implicated in the deaths of 2.4 million honeybee colonies. Foreign organisms living in and among the bees were identified by reading sequences of DNA isolated from the bee colonies.

**Achillion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** (New Haven) has appointed David P. Wright to its board of directors. Mr. Wright, who is president and CEO of Pharmathene, Inc., brings extensive experience in pharmaceutical market development, product

launch and commercial operations. He will serve on Achillion's audit committee.

**Alexion Pharmaceuticals** (Cheshire) reports that patients with the rare blood disorder PNH (paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria) experienced a 92 percent reduction in the incidence of life-threatening blood clots (thromboses) following treatment with Alexion's Soliris™ (eculizumab), according to an analysis of clinical studies recently published online in *Blood*, the journal of the American Society of Hematology.

**Bayer HealthCare** (Leverkusen, Germany/West Haven) reports that Genzyme Corporation and Bayer Schering Pharma AG have announced that the first patient has been treated in the first of two planned Phase III trials examining the safety and efficacy of alemtuzumab for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

**Boehringer Ingelheim** (Ingelheim, Germany/Danbury) has completed the construction of a \$30 million, 86,000-square-foot research facility on its 300-acre campus that straddles Ridgefield and Danbury. Since opening in May, the center has added 60 new research jobs.

**Bristol-Myers Squibb Company** (New York/Wallingford) and Adnexus™ Therapeutics announced today the companies have signed a definitive agreement under which Bristol-Myers Squibb will acquire privately held Adnexus Therapeutics, developer of a new therapeutic class of biologics called Adnectins™. The acquisition of Adnexus will help advance Bristol-Myers Squibb's biologics strategy across multiple therapeutic areas and includes a Phase I oncology biologic, Angiocept™.

**Cara Therapeutics** (Shelton) has received \$4 million in funding from Connecticut Innovations, the state's quasi-public authority responsible for technology investing and innovation development. The funding has enabled Cara, which has 42 employees, to build out 41,000 square feet of laboratory and related space in its new corporate headquarters facility at 1 Parrot Drive in Shelton, to which it relocated recently from Tarrytown, NY. "The substantial contribution from Connecticut Innovations' facilities fund toward our build-out costs was a critical component of the economic feasibility of our re-location," said president and CEO Derek Chalmers.

**Connecticut Innovations** (Rocky Hill) announced in Sept that it has provided seed funding of \$250,000 to New Ortho Polymers Inc. of Farmington, through its Seed Investment Fund. This is the second company to receive assistance through this program. The funding will be used to help New Ortho develop innovative orthodontic systems that make use of proprietary shape memory polymer technology developed at the University of Connecticut.

CI also announced an investment of \$300,000 in Environmental Energy Services, Inc., of Sandy Hook, and \$4 million in CURE member Cara Therapeutics (see story above).

**CuraGen Corporation** (Branford) has appointed Timothy M. Shannon, M.D., president and CEO, replacing Dr. Frank Armstrong, who will remain with the Company through the end of 2007 and continue on CuraGen's Board of Directors until the annual meeting in May 2008. Dr. Shannon has extensive experience related to the research, development and commercialization of novel therapeutics, and has served as Executive Vice President of Research and Development and Chief Medical Officer of CuraGen since September 2002.

**GlaxoSmithKline** (Brentford, UK/Research Triangle Park, NC) announced new results from a large study that demonstrate combination treatment with Avodart® (dutasteride) and the alpha blocker, tamsulosin, provides significantly greater urinary symptom improvement for men with enlarged prostate than either Avodart or tamsulosin monotherapy over 24 months.

**Hartford Hospital** (Hartford) announced that Detlef Wencker, MD, has joined the Henry Low Heart Center as Director of the Heart Failure and Transplant Center. He will operate the hospital's new infusion center and will assume a leadership role with the hospital's Heart Failure and Transplant Center. He comes to Hartford Hospital from the Yale University School of Medicine, where he was Director of the Infusion Center and Disease Management Program for the Yale Heart Failure Program.

**HistoRx** (New Haven) said it has entered into a research collaboration with the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), a National Cancer Institute-funded clinical cooperative group. Under the terms of the agreement, HistoRx will provide RTOG researchers access to HistoRx's AQUA® technology for biomarker analysis and will develop customized immunohistochemical assays to be used by RTOG in investigating the relationship between specific protein biomarkers and clinical responsiveness in brain tumor patients. HistoRx intends to commercialize assays and reagents developed in the course of the collaboration for clinical use as predictive diagnostics.

**Invitrogen** (Carlsbad, CA/Branford) has been awarded a contract to provide kits for detecting possible E. coli O157 contamination in food at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China. The monitoring program, based on World Health Organization food standards, is conducted by the Beijing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Olympic Food Safety program.

**Ipsogen** (Marseille, France/New Haven), a molecular diagnostic company, has signed a co-exclusive license agreement with XENOMICS, a developer of next-generation medical DNA diagnostic technologies. The license enables IPSOGEN to develop, manufacture and commercialize research and diagnostic products based on the analysis of NPM1 mutations for the stratification and monitoring of patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). (A recent discovery by Drs. Falini and Mecucci at the Institute of Hematology at the University of Perugia in Italy showed that about 60% of adult AML with normal karyotype have a mutation in the nucleophosmin (NPM1) gene.)

**Johnson & Johnson** (New Brunswick, NJ) announced that findings from an international, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase III trial evaluating ustekinumab (CNTO 1275) in the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis will be presented for the first time at the the World Congress of Dermatology, Sept 30 to Oct 5 in Buenos Aires. Ustekinumab is a novel biologic therapy that targets interleukin 12 (IL-12) and interleukin 23 (IL-23), naturally occurring proteins that are important in normalizing the immune system and that are also believed to play a role in immune-mediated inflammatory diseases.

In a Sept interview, Eugene Seymour, MD, CEO of **NanoViricides, Inc.** (West Haven), said the company is about two years away from filing with the US Food & Drug Administration for approval of its first drugs. Those drugs will be able to fight avian influenza and rabies, Seymour said.

NanoViricides has hired Grubb & Ellis/BRE Commercial to find laboratory and manufacturing space. The company currently occupies a 5,000-square-foot laboratory at 4 Research Drive in Woodbridge, and plans to remain headquartered in West Haven.

**Neurogen Corporation** (Branford) announced that the United States Adopted Names (USAN) Council, in consultation with the World Health Organization (WHO), has approved the nonproprietary name "adiplon" for Neurogen's wholly-owned drug candidate for treatment of insomnia, NG2-73. To date adiplon has been tested in over 600 subjects in eight clinical studies. Recent Phase IIb studies with primary chronic insomnia patients demonstrated doses that met primary endpoints for sleep induction and for sleep maintenance, with statistical and clinical significance.

Neurogen has named Stephen R. Davis president and identified him as the eventual successor to William H. Koster, CEO of the company. Davis has been responsible for the business operations of Neurogen, including business development, finance, and legal functions.

**Ophtherion, Inc.** (New Haven), a venture-backed biotechnology company that focuses on the discovery and development of diagnostics and therapeutics for age-related macular degeneration and other diseases of the body's complement system, recently leased laboratory and office space at the Long Wharf Maritime Center, 55 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven.

**Pfizer Inc.** (New York, NY/Groton/New London) announced results of a British study that provides evidence for keeping patients on the Pfizer statin drug Lipitor compared to a competing product. The study showed that switching patients from Lipitor tablets to simvastatin was associated with a 30 percent increase in the relative risk of major cardiovascular events.

**Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)** (Washington, DC) testified recently to the U.S. House of Representatives on the problem of prescription drug counterfeiting, citing estimates from the Center for Medicines in the Public Interest that counterfeit drug sales will reach \$75 billion globally in 2010, an increase of more than 90 percent from 2005. PhRMA also cited a study by MarkMonitor suggesting that a disturbing rate of fraudulent Internet drug sellers are popping up and potentially selling counterfeit medicines to consumers. According to the study, only a tiny fraction of the online businesses possessed the certifications they claimed.

**Praxair** (Danbury) has been named a component of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index, launched in 1999 as the first equity benchmark to track the performance of leading corporations that are committed to sustainability on a global scale. Praxair is among the world's largest industrial gas companies.

**Protein Sciences Corporation** (Meriden) has signed an agreement with UMN Pharma Inc., an entrepreneurial Japanese company, licensing FluBIØk, Protein Sciences' patented recombinant influenza vaccine, for the Japan market.

**Vion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** (New Haven) announced that an investigator-sponsored trial of its lead anti-cancer agent Cloretazine (VNP40101M) in combination with Temodar (temozolomide) in relapsed or progressive adult malignant gliomas has been initiated under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey J. Raizer, Principal Investigator.

Dr. Laura Grabel of **Wesleyan University** (Middletown) was interviewed recently by WNPR regarding her stem cell research activities. [more](#)

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

A research team led by Timothy Hla, director of the Center for Vascular Biology at the UConn Health Center, has found a molecule in blood plasma that may hold one of the keys to vision loss. [more](#)

*Dr. T.V. Rajan, a professor of immunology at the UConn Health Center, has been invited by the World Health Organization to serve a four-year term on its expert advisory panel on parasitic diseases. [more](#)*

Biologists in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and their collaborators at other universities have found experimental evidence that supports a controversial theory of genetic conflict in the reproduction of some animals. Michael O'Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, is the lead author. Rachel O'Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, faculty from other institutions, and graduate students and a postdoctoral fellow from UConn and elsewhere are co-authors. The O'Neills, who are married, are active researchers at UConn who often hold joint meetings of their research groups and collaborate on projects. [more](#)

*Dr. Edward Rossomando, a professor of craniofacial sciences at the School of Dental Medicine, has developed a program that moves biotechnology more efficiently from scientists and inventors to dental practitioners. [more](#)*

An Evidence Based Practice Center is to be established at UConn, led by the School of Pharmacy in collaboration with the School of Business and Hartford Hospital. Such centers are charged by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with conducting comprehensive, systematic reviews of research on health topics of vital importance to the U.S. healthcare system, and advising federal and state policymakers, professional organizations, and insurance companies on the highest quality, most effective, and most cost-effective healthcare treatments and delivery options. [more](#)

*Youth Health Service Corps, which took root at UConn's School of Medicine, is now branching out nationwide. [more](#)*

An enthusiastic group of Health Center supporters, volunteers, and staff members gathered recently at the historic Warner Theatre in Torrington to celebrate the newest addition to the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. [more](#)

*Pamela Miles and Susan Lapalme have been nominated for PAWS awards. PAWS are recognition awards for Health Center employees. PAWS is an acronym for "Part of a team, Awesome attitude, Wonderful work ethic, and Superior service." [more](#)*

For two years in a row, Dr. Frank Nichols, professor of periodontology at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, has been honored with the Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award. [more](#)

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

A study by Yale researchers offers a new view of what causes the greatest genetic variability among individuals - suggesting that it is due less to single point mutations than to the presence of structural changes that cause extended segments of the human genome to be missing, rearranged or present in extra copies. "The focus for identifying genetic differences has traditionally been on point mutations or SNPs - changes in single bases in individual genes," said Michael Snyder, the Cullman Professor of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology and senior author of the study, which was published in Science Express. "Our study shows that a considerably greater amount of variation between individuals is due to rearrangement of big chunks of DNA."

*Yale researchers have provided new insight into how mutations in a single gene may cause mental retardation and kidney problems in Lowe syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects only boys. In a new study in Developmental Cell, senior author Pietro De Camilli, professor of cell biology and neurobiology, said that the kidney defects associated with Lowe syndrome suggested that kidney cells might be improperly regulating receptor proteins on their surfaces that control the exchange of certain molecules between the urine and the blood.*

Single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs) can kill bacteria like the common pathogen E. coli by severely damaging their cell walls, according to a recent report from Yale researchers in the American Chemical Society (ACS) journal Langmuir. "We began the study out of concerns for the possible toxicity of nanotubes in aquatic environments and their presence in the food chain," said Menachem Elimelech, professor and chair of chemical and environmental engineering at Yale and senior author on the paper. "While nanotubes have great promise for medical and commercial applications there is little understanding of how they interact with humans and the environment."

*Mice that do not make the protein CD200 have bigger bones, a finding that raises possibilities for treating osteoporosis, according to a report this week by a Yale School of Medicine researcher in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Osteoporosis is an insidious and devastating disease that results from the loss of bone mass, which leads to fractures of the spine, the hip, and the wrist," said the senior author, Agnès Vignery, associate professor of orthopedics. "The identification of molecules that can be targeted to prevent bone loss is therefore essential."*

Derek Toomre, assistant professor of cell biology at Yale School of Medicine, has received a \$2.5 million National Institutes

of Health (NIH) Director's New Innovator Award to develop optical techniques for a new generation of microscopes that will help in researching cancer and diabetes, among other diseases.

*The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded Yale School of Medicine \$23.4 million to study the interactive effects of stress and self-control on tobacco smoking, excessive drinking, and overeating.*

A study by researchers at Yale School of Medicine published in JAMA shows that 75 percent of physicians in training surveyed do not understand the statistics they encounter in the medical literature, calling into question their ability to interpret important clinical research data. "Most residents in this study lack the knowledge in biostatistics needed to interpret many of the results in published clinical research," said corresponding author Donna M. Windish, M.D., assistant professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine.

*A team led by Victoria Kirsh, formerly a doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute that men who ate broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, and turnips were 40 percent less likely to be diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer compared to men whose diet included very little of these vegetables.*

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

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