

Researchers hopeful on burn therapy breakthrough

The mystery of why the same dosage of infection-preventing drugs applied to the skin can cause severe side effects or even death in some burn patients and be clinically ineffective in others apparently has been solved.

Researchers in the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy also believe they have a remedy for this problem which has long puzzled clinicians who treat burn victims.

Gordon L. Flynn, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacy who heads the research, said he and his colleagues have discovered that the way drugs penetrate burned skin can vary greatly regardless of the degree of burn.

"This is contrary to the burn literature physicians have relied upon," he said.

Thus an application of antibiotic on the skin's surface may be adequate for one patient, dangerous for another in which greater permeability would permit more of the drug to enter the bloodstream, and ineffective on a third, due to poor penetration.

"One can have a third-degree burn (deepest, destroying tissue) with the skin's natural barrier to penetration (impermeability) intact, and one can have a first-degree (minor) burn with the barrier destroyed," Dr. Flynn said.

ADMINISTERING DRUGS orally or by injection is not effective for burn patients because of poor blood circulation through the damaged tissue, he said.

The answer to the clinical treatment problem is to determine the permeability of the burn tissue in each patient — not apply a skin dosage according to the depth of the burn.

Since a physician can not determine permeability by just looking at the skin, the U-M scientist said, some simple means of measurement of a burn's effect appears to be the only solution. Changes in water vapor transpiration

through the skin's surface are a good indicator.

"In the future, physicians in hospital burn units will map out surface water loss." The greater the moisture loss, the greater the damage to the barrier that keeps the antibiotic or antiseptic from entering the bloodstream, he said.

Dr. Flynn and his colleagues in the College of Pharmacy, aided by physicians in the U-M Hospital Burn Unit, began their study three years ago. Supported by the National Institutes of Health, they have had two scientific papers on the study accepted for publication, "but fundamentally the world is

not yet informed about what we have found out."

HOWEVER, HE predicted, "within the next two or three years, I expect an impact (from the study) clinically if we are on the right track, and I think we are."

"What we have learned is far more clinically significant than we anticipated."

In addition to finding out that permeability varies in individuals with the same degree of burn, the U-M scientists also discovered that it remains stable for four or five days after the patient is burned, but then changes as

natural repair begins to take effect.

"The skin is a very elegant and highly organized tissue that prevents absorption of harmful impurities and chemicals from the environment, but the burn patient loses that protection."

Also because of the damage to tissue, the burn patient is susceptible to local bacterial infections of extreme severity and the spread of infection into body tissue, he said. Fulminating infections are the leading cause of death in the burn ward.

And to top it off, "The reformation of tissue to replace that destroyed is a very taxing process that requires all the energy the body can muster."

OU graduates 700 on Sunday

The Oakland University Board of Trustees will confer four honorary degrees at commencement exercises Sunday.

Some 700 students will be recognized at the 2 p.m. ceremony in the OU Baldwin Pavilion.

Jin H. Kinoshita, chief of the Vision Research Laboratory, National Eye Institute, will receive one of the honorary degrees and give the commencement address.

Other degrees will be given to Donald O'Dowd, OU's first president, who resigned last year to become executive vice chancellor, State University of New York, and to Mrs. Roger M. (Helen J.) Kyes and Mrs. George T. (Florine E.) Trumbull, both of Bloomfield Hills.

Mrs. Kyes and her late husband have contributed to the university's scholarship programs and Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Theatre and Festival.

Mrs. Trumbull and her late husband have been financial supporters of the university since its earliest days. Trumbull contributions allowed construction of Trumbull Terrace, a dining area for patrons of the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Newsman Kuralt will speak at OU

CBS News correspondent Charles Kuralt will speak at Oakland University at 2 p.m. Oct. 7.

His talk, sponsored by the University Congress Concert Lecture Board and the Student Life Lecture Committee, will be in the Crocker of the Oakland Center.

Student tickets are 50 cents, with identification card. General admission is \$1.50.

Kuralt anchors the CBS News Sunday Morning program and hosts the "On the Road" series for CBS Television and "Dateline: America" for CBS radio.

His "On the Road" series has won two George Foster Peabody awards, the latest in 1976 and an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Kuralt joined CBS News as a writer in 1956.

Orchard Ridge gym and courts open to public

The new gym and community activities building at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills, is now open early weekday morning and Sunday afternoons.

The building's new hours are 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-6 p.m. Sundays. College courses take priority in scheduling. The public may use the building during open periods.

The building includes a jogging course, Olympic-size pool, weight room and racquetball courts. Fees range from 50 cents per hour for the gym to \$5 per hour for the racquetball courts.

For schedule information, call the Orchard Ridge campus at 476-9400, Ext. 377.

Workshop explains voc ed regulations

A day-long workshop explaining school district compliance with federal vocational education regulations will start at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 25 in the Oakland Intermediate School District office, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, in Pontiac.

U.S. civil rights regulations prohibit school districts from discriminating against vocational education students based on race, sex, ethnic background or handicaps.

The workshop will be conducted by the State Board of Education's vocational-technical education service.

Injury workshop offered trainers

"Preventing, Recognizing and Treating Athletic Injuries in Pre-Collegiate Athletes of Both Sexes," a workshop for coaches, trainers and interested parents will be offered from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Detroit Cultural Center's Rackham Memorial.

Dr. Edwin Guise, team physician to the Detroit Lions, will conduct the class, along with Dr. Robert Tigge, director of Ford Hospital's recently opened Center for Athletic Medicine.

The program aims to answer questions such as: How do you judge what an athlete can do since all kids can participate in some sport, but not necessarily in every sport? How do you recognize a new injury? How do you deal with emergencies, including moving the patient and deciding whether to call a physician? And what should you know about rehabilitating young athletes?

For registration information call University Courses in Adult Education 577-4665. Fee for the workshop is \$15.

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