

HEART

FROM PAGE C5

courage he exhibited with this pioneering technology."

The procedure might be used to improve other organs, he said. Research on the subject has been ongoing by other area hospitals, as well.

For instance, the University of Michigan Medical Center published a study in the March issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* addressing muscle cells taken from patients' legs that were shown to have grown in their hearts.

NORMALCY

Dimitri's parents are still trying to find some sort of normalcy in their lives. Tammera

Bonnville and her husband, Craig, have four other children. Dimitri is the oldest.

"It definitely changed our lives forever," said Tammera Bonnville. "It makes you realize how important family is, not to sweat the small stuff and to love your family, because you never know."

Dimitri returned home in early March and was told to stay on a low-stress, low-exercise routine. "We're taking it slow," said Tammera Bonnville. "We're really not sure what he's able to do yet."

Dimitri is waiting to return to school and is scheduled to start cardiac rehabilitation. "It's pretty tough," he said. "I leave it to all the doctors. I have faith in my doctors. I was never really, really religious, but I honestly think twice about it now. I wish it could have happened. If I never took it all back I would."

ORGAN

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the murder trial in the young woman's death was about to start, he felt he needed to be there. "I was very determined to go to Lansing."

The six-week trial was his first time in a courtroom. He met the prosecuting attorney, who was curious about the only white person in the courtroom, but Hagan didn't reveal his ties due to patient confidentiality.

Later, when that lawyer learned who Hagan was, he said he felt as if a part of the victim was alive in the courtroom. That motivated the lawyer.

"He would talk to the family and to me," Hagan told of his son's death and the family accepted him.

At one point in the trial, another family member arrived and asked about Hagan. She was told he was part of the family. "She had no idea how true that was," he said.

The prosecutor suggested sending a letter through the victim's rights advocate, and Hagan agreed to do so when the trial ended. He prayed with the family; Hagan, who was raised Catholic and spent six years at Sacred Heart Seminary, had no trouble joining in their prayers.

When they learned who he was, the father told of how he had trouble with the decision on organ donation. He's now living in Atlanta, Ga., and found his anger has gone away. The father tells people "I have a relative up in Michigan who's white."

Hagan also joked that his average age is now only 37.

VITAL MESSAGE

"You, too, can become part of this story," the physician told Rotarians. He encouraged them to call Gift of Life at (800) 482-4881 or visit giftoflifemichigan.org on the Web. (Registration can be done online through Michigan's Department of State Web site at www.michigan.gov/sos.) Hagan's active with Gift of Life and the American Liver

MARCH

Anorexia/bulimia

Beaumont Hospital offers a support group led by recovering or recovered anorexia and/or bulimics 7-9:30 p.m. Mondays, March 17, 24 and 31. The group meets in the hospital's 10th Floor, Classrooms A and B, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call (248) 351-9170.

Weight control

Informational seminars for Beaumont Hospital's Weight Control program will take place 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 or 25, or 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 or 26, on scheduled Saturdays. The seminars are held at the Beaumont Weight Control Center, 4749 Coolidge Highway (north of 14 Mile Road), Royal Oak. The center specializes in the treatment of people who are mildly to severely overweight.

Grief support

Angela Hospice, 14000 Newburgh Road, Livonia, offers ongoing grief support groups every second and fourth Tuesday. Next meeting is 10 a.m. March 25 and 6:30 p.m. both days. Call Joan Lee at (734) 464-7800.

Yoga

Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39150 Grand River, Novi will offer "Gentle Yoga for Beginners" 9-11 a.m. Mondays. The first six-week session begins March 10. The second begins April 28. The fee is \$55. The class emphasizes stretches for strength, flexibility, relaxation and energy enhancement. Learn techniques to help alleviate insomnia, anxiety and stress. Includes breathing and meditation exercises. To register, call (248) 477-6700.

Thyroid

The Michigan Thyroid Support Group meets on a monthly basis. Call Tracy Green at (734) 453-1745 or e-mail tracygreen@comcast.net or visit our web site at 100.com/michiganthyroid.com.

Menopause naturally

Center for Lifelong Learning, Henry Ford Community College, 22955 Ann Arbor Trail, Warren, east of Telegraph, Dearborn Heights, will host

two discussions on hormones by Dr. Michael Scott Poppe. "Timing the Gas for Men" 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25. Poppe will describe the symptoms of hormone decline and discuss how natural hormone replacement can benefit men. CEH's 4049, Section 10505 for general public, \$19. CEH's 4049, Section 10505 for nurses \$15. Nursing contact hours: 2. To register, visit www.ford.edu/CEH or call (313) 317-1500 or 317-1504.

Low vision

"Peer Support" offers emotional support, coping skills and information for people with visual problems. The groups will meet 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Beaumont Hospital's Medical Office Building, 5th Floor, Beaumont Eye Institute, 3535 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call (248) 551-2023.

Prostate cancer

Join Dr. Fred Lee, of the Redding Cancer Center, for a discussion of "Diagnosing & Staging Prostate Cancer" 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 18. The center is located at 3395 Northwestern Hwy, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 538-6514.

Autism

Everyday Wonders Autism Support Network will host a discussion, "Special Gifts for Special Kids" featuring the author of the book by the same title, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at First Lutheran Church, 143 Albany, Ferndale. Tickets are \$20 for group members and \$25 for non-members. Seating is limited. A limited ticket purchase required. Support group meetings are held at various locations the second Monday and Tuesday of each month. Contact Laura Tedeschi at (248) 399-6220. Online message board available (www.everydaywondersautism.com) and group chat.

Stroke screening

Advanced Screening will assess your risk for heart attack and stroke Thursday, March 20, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 16218 Farmington Road, Livonia. A complete vascular screening package (including stroke/cerebral artery, abdominal aortic/arterio-

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

artery) and ankle brachial index testing of the arteries is 99% accurate. Appointment for vascular screening package (vascular screening, heart muscle test, blood cholesterol and EKGs) 2:00 p.m. Screens can be performed individually. Pre-registration required. Call 800-541-8710.

Post-polio support

The first meeting of the Southeast Michigan Post-Polio Support Group will be 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 22, at the First Presbyterian Church of Troy, 4328 Livernois. Troy. The church is located about nine miles north of Ecorse. Call (313) 475-5755 or (313) 595-2955.

Mini-med school

If you've missed your calling to become a doctor but would still like a glimpse of medical school, it's not too late. The J.W. Medical School is now enrolling students in its third annual Mini-Med School. 9

9 p.m., every Tuesday from April 8 to May 13, on the Medical School campus. The tuition is \$75 per person; complimentary parking will be provided. Program will focus on infectious disease and cover a range of subjects including the nature of the microbial world, immunization and vaccination, diagnostic laboratory procedures and the uses and abuses of antibiotics, opportunistic infections in immunocompromised patients and HIV/AIDS, respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, the evolution and ecology of infectious diseases, emerging infections, bioterrorism and biological warfare. Space is limited and registration forms and payment must be postmarked no later than March 25. For a copy of the registration form, visit www.med.umich.edu/3rdmini or call (800) 742-2320 and enter category 6540.

Arthritis Today

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NEW IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

For years, physicians treating psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have been frustrated as their patients' medications, available since 1989, both for the skin condition and the joint complications, starting in 1990, the outlook for patients with psoriasis has improved. Then the medical community recognized the value of methotrexate to use improved both the skin and joint component of psoriasis. However, during methotrexate therapy a risk of a low blood count, liver damage, and even cancer, in addition, a risk of infection includes any infection that can appear as psoriasis. In 2000, a new drug, Enbrel, became available for psoriatic arthritis. Patients taking this medication would a number whose arthritis overwhelmed with psoriasis. Use of Enbrel cleared skin lesions, and decreased joint swelling. Further research indicated that the combination of methotrexate and Enbrel worked well and quickly better than either agent alone.

The new drug, which makes sense, as methotrexate works to stop immune cells from multiplying, and Enbrel blocks a chemical that prevents the production of immune cells already in the body. The effect of these two drugs does not seem without risk. Enbrel can cause serious susceptibility to infection and skin reactions, particularly if you are diabetic. This drug is given in addition to the possible side effect of methotrexate noted above. However, in some patients, clearing of the psoriasis and arthritis permits returning only on Enbrel.

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