

# New drug protects against peanut allergies

BY JANET MCCORMACK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — For the first time, an experimental drug has been shown to protect people from potentially deadly allergic reactions from eating peanuts by accident.

About 1.5 million Americans are allergic to peanuts, the leading cause of allergy deaths. Some youngsters must eat at a peanut-free cafeteria table or even in an isolated room. Some airlines have stopped serving peanuts to safeguard people allergic to even a whiff of the nut.

The monthly shots are not a cure. But doctors believe the drug should let these people avoid severe complications if

they unknowingly eat one or two peanuts, the typical accidental exposure. "Basically, we would not be seeing people in the emergency room or the morgue from peanut accidents," said Dr. S. Allan Bock, an allergist from Boulder, Colo., who was not part of the study.

However, the drug is a few years away from going on the market. Its critical third round of tests has been stalled by legal infighting among the three companies with rights to it.

And Dr. Hugh A. Sampson of Mount Sinai Medical School in New York said patients would need lifelong monthly shots of the drug, called TNX-901, and still would have to guard against eating peanuts.

Peanut allergies have been rising in recent decades. No one is sure why, but a new study found that baby creams or lotions containing peanut oil may lead to peanut allergies.

Babies whose rashes or eczema were soothed by such creams were more likely to become allergic to peanuts than those whose creams did not include peanut oil, said Dr. Gideon Lack of St. Mary's Hospital at Imperial College in London.

Lack's study — and research on the effectiveness of the allergy drug — were presented Monday in Denver to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. They will be published Thursday in the New England Journal of

Medicine, which released them Monday on its Web site.

The study was paid for by one of the drug's developers, Tanox Inc., and by grants from the Peanut Board, the Peanut Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

The peanut allergy drug is designed to catch hold of immunoglobulin-E, or IgE, a molecule that plays a major part in asthma and allergies.

In a study, 84 people with immediate allergic reactions to peanuts got monthly shots of either a placebo or TNX-901 for four months. There were three different doses of TNX-901; neither doctors nor patients knew who got what.

Those on the highest dose could handle an average of

almost nine peanuts' worth of peanut flour at the end, compared with about a half-peanut at the start. And five of them ate the equivalent of 24 peanuts without reacting.

"That's a pretty impressive amount," Sampson said.

The drug also protected people from the even tinier amounts of peanuts that can be present in the air. In addition, several participants reported that other food allergies were lessened, and hay fever symptoms disappeared.

Shelley Schneiderman Ducker, spokeswoman for Genentech Inc., one of the developers of the drug, said TNX-901 is likely to be expensive, but she would not be more specific.

For 15-year-old Allison Rush,

a study participant with a potentially lethal allergy to peanuts, the drug means she will no longer have to be hyper-vigilant about avoiding even the tiniest bit of peanut contamination.

Before her first treatment, the equivalent of one-60th of a peanut made her throat start closing up, her skin break out in hives, her face swell, and her blood pressure drop, said her mother, Bonnie Rush. After four monthly injections, it took the equivalent of six peanuts to bring on such an anaphylactic attack.

"I really can't imagine life for my daughter without this drug," Bonnie Rush said. "It's completely changed her quality of life, her outlook on life."

## COLONOSCOPY

FROM PAGE C5

"If we can diagnose these adenomas, we can eliminate the cancer. The million dollar question is how do you screen... In a perfect world the perfect test is something that costs very little and is very sensitive."

(Henderson said the cost of a virtual colonoscopy is \$750. Biederman believes that amount is "much too much for mass screenings.")

Gunaratnam poses this question: "Would you rather pay \$750 for a virtual colonoscopy or \$1,000 for a

conventional colonoscopy and have a test that's both diagnostic and therapeutic?"

### THE FUTURE

Henderson currently is the primary investigator in Michigan for a Mayo Clinic Study on fecal DNA evaluation. Unlike the standard fecal occult blood test — the least sensitive of colon cancer tests because it does not detect tumors that are not bleeding — DNA stool tests have great promise for diagnostic accuracy. Colon tumors constantly shed cells that contain abnormal DNA, a hallmark of cancer.

The test appears to be able to detect cancers and precancers 90 percent of the time for growths greater than 1 centimeter and 70 to 80 percent of the time for growths less than 1 centimeter, said Henderson.

Because the test looks for cancer at the molecular level, it may be less likely than conventional fecal blood tests to give false positive and false negative results. And, said Henderson, it may be able to detect other kinds of cancers — lung, stomach, pancreas, and bile ducts — that shed DNA into the digestive tract. But there are drawbacks with the test at the present time, says the American

Cancer Society. It requires an entire stool sample to be sent to a laboratory for testing, something some people may find unacceptable. Besides, the test is not yet automated, it currently costs more than \$400 per test. And, like virtual colonoscopy, it requires further testing to prove it is effective.

With 90 percent of colon cancer being preventable, and with all the diagnostic tests available, there's no reason not to be screened, said Gunaratnam. It's discouraging, he added, when he sees a patient with a colon cancer that could have been prevented. "We look at the test result and say, 'Why didn't you get it done earlier?'"

## St. Joe's participates in study

The Michigan Cancer Research Consortium Community Clinical Oncology Program at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor is participating in a research study sponsored by the North Central Treatment Group through Mayo Clinic. The study tests a recently developed prototype stool assay system for detecting DNA alterations that occur with colorectal neoplasia.

Eligible individuals participate in an enrollment visit, have their blood drawn, collect and mail three whole stools to Mayo Clinic, and undergo a colonoscopy. Eligibility criteria include:

- Between ages 50 and 80. If female, you must be post-menopausal. (Beginning June 1 the age criteria will include only those between the ages of 65 and 80.)
- No colorectal exams in the past 10 years.
- No recent stool testing.
- No prior colorectal surgery.

For more information about this important research study, please call the Michigan Cancer Research Consortium's toll-free study line at (877) 690-5995.

## TETANUS SHOTS

FROM PAGE C5

April 6, MVN will be offering Td shots for attendees of the 2003 Spring Home & Garden Show at the Novi Expo Center in Novi. Shots will be available at this show on Friday, from 1-4 p.m.; on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and on Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Td shots are \$20 each, and do not

include the price of admission for the shows. All shots will be administered by MVN's licensed nurses.

In addition, landscape, construction and other businesses may contact MVN online at [www.mvn.com](http://www.mvn.com) to schedule an on-site Td immunization clinic for their employees.

For more details about the BIA's home and garden shows, visit [www.builders.org](http://www.builders.org). To learn more about tetanus and diphtheria, visit the CDC Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). MVN is a non-profit organization that has served the community since 1909.

## Grab your mouse



and find your dream house.



After you've checked your hometown newspaper, go to

[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

REAL ESTATE

where you'll find thousands of listings from area Realtors 24/7.

Go Online.

On your lunch hour. In your pajamas. Whenever.

Check it out!



**hometownlife.com**

Brought to you by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Plan your weekend activities each Thursday with Arts & Entertainment

## hometownlife.com INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Put your business On-Line!, call 1-800-999-4614

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACCOUNTANTS</b><br>Bovitz, CPA ..... <a href="http://www.bovitzcpa.com">www.bovitzcpa.com</a>                                           | <b>HORSEBACK RIDING</b><br>Michigan Trail Riders ..... <a href="http://www.michigantrailriders.com">www.michigantrailriders.com</a>               |
| <b>ACUPUNCTURE</b><br>Acupuncture Institute of Michigan ..... <a href="http://www.dinoodles.com">www.dinoodles.com</a>                     | <b>IDENTIFICATION &amp; LAMINATION</b><br>Identification Lamination Products ..... <a href="http://www.identlam.com">www.identlam.com</a>         |
| <b>ADVERTISING AND MARKETING SERVICES</b><br>Eazco ..... <a href="http://www.eazco.com">www.eazco.com</a>                                  | <b>INSURANCE</b><br>J.J. O'Connell & Assoc., Inc. Insurance ..... <a href="http://www.oconnellinsurance.com">www.oconnellinsurance.com</a>        |
| <b>APARTMENTS</b><br>Can Be Investments ..... <a href="http://www.can-be.com">www.can-be.com</a>                                           | <b>THE INSURANCE HOUSE</b><br>The Insurance House ..... <a href="http://www.insurancehouse.com">www.insurancehouse.com</a>                        |
| <b>ART MUSEUMS</b><br>The Detroit Institute of Arts ..... <a href="http://www.dia.org">www.dia.org</a>                                     | <b>INTERNET HOSTING</b><br>HomeTown Digital ..... <a href="http://www.hometownlife.com">www.hometownlife.com</a>                                  |
| <b>ASPHALT/CONCRETE PAVING</b><br>Ajax Paving Industries ..... <a href="http://www.ajaxpaving.com">www.ajaxpaving.com</a>                  | <b>180900078 19849 CERTIFICATION SUPPORT</b><br>Arch Associates, LLC ..... <a href="http://www.archassociates.com">www.archassociates.com</a>     |
| <b>ASSOCIATIONS</b><br>Oakland Youth Orchestra ..... <a href="http://www.oyo.org">www.oyo.org</a>                                          | <b>JEWELERS</b><br>Showroom of Elegance ..... <a href="http://www.showroomofelegance.com">www.showroomofelegance.com</a>                          |
| <b>ATTORNEYS</b><br>Suburban Newspapers ..... <a href="http://www.suburbannews.org">www.suburbannews.org</a>                               | <b>LAWYER SERVICES</b><br>Law Offices of Judith Blumeno ..... <a href="http://www.lawyers.com/jblumeno">www.lawyers.com/jblumeno</a>              |
| <b>ATTORNEYS</b><br>Margie Lynn Tuck ..... <a href="http://www.lawyers.com/margielynntuck">www.lawyers.com/margielynntuck</a>              | <b>MANUFACTURER/WELDING WIRE</b><br>Cor-Met Inc. ..... <a href="http://www.cor-met.com">www.cor-met.com</a>                                       |
| <b>AUTOMOTIVE</b><br>Competition Limited ..... <a href="http://www.hioutputbulbs.com">www.hioutputbulbs.com</a>                            | <b>MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVES</b><br>Electronic Sources ..... <a href="http://www.esrep.com">www.esrep.com</a>                                 |
| <b>BAKING/COOKING</b><br>Jiffy Mix - Chetelsa Milling Company ..... <a href="http://www.jiffymix.com">www.jiffymix.com</a>                 | <b>MEDICAL TESTING</b><br>Access Diagnostics Inc. ..... <a href="http://www.accessdiagnostics.com">www.accessdiagnostics.com</a>                  |
| <b>BOOKS</b><br>Apostolate Communications ..... <a href="http://www.apostolate.com">www.apostolate.com</a>                                 | <b>NEEDLE SAVINGS PROGRAMS</b><br>Gerald Cargan, Car Entrie Representative ..... <a href="http://www.cartrivetrans.com">www.cartrivetrans.com</a> |
| <b>CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT</b><br>Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma ..... <a href="http://www.ctcl-mi.org">www.ctcl-mi.org</a>              | <b>MEDICAL SUPPLIES</b><br>Innovative Laboratory Supplies ..... <a href="http://www.innovativebioscience.com">www.innovativebioscience.com</a>    |
| <b>CERAMIC SUPPLIES</b><br>New Deep in Ceramics ..... <a href="http://www.new-deep-in-ceramics.com">www.new-deep-in-ceramics.com</a>       | <b>MUSIC DISCOGRAPHY</b><br>Classic Audio Repro ..... <a href="http://www.classicaudio.com">www.classicaudio.com</a>                              |
| <b>CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE</b><br>Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce ..... <a href="http://www.bbbcc.com">www.bbbcc.com</a>            | <b>PAINTING</b><br>Art Images ..... <a href="http://www.art-images.com">www.art-images.com</a>                                                    |
| <b>CHAPELS</b><br>Historic Village Chapel ..... <a href="http://www.historicvillagechapel.com">www.historicvillagechapel.com</a>           | <b>PAINTING SUPPLIES</b><br>Flo-Rite Paint ..... <a href="http://www.flo-ritepaint.com">www.flo-ritepaint.com</a>                                 |
| <b>CHILDREN'S THEATRE</b><br>Marquis Theatre ..... <a href="http://www.northerntheatremarquis.com">www.northerntheatremarquis.com</a>      | <b>PARKS</b><br>Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority ..... <a href="http://www.metroparks.com">www.metroparks.com</a>                                |
| <b>CLASSIFIED ADS</b><br>Hometown Newspapers ..... <a href="http://hometownlife.com">hometownlife.com</a>                                  | <b>PUBLICATIONS</b><br>Camden Publications ..... <a href="http://www.club50news.com">www.club50news.com</a>                                       |
| <b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b><br>Beverly Hills Police ..... <a href="http://www.beverlyhillspolice.com">www.beverlyhillspolice.com</a>         | <b>QUALITY SYSTEMS &amp; PRODUCTIVITY</b><br>Arch Associates, LLC ..... <a href="http://www.archassociates.com">www.archassociates.com</a>        |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION</b><br>City of Huntington Woods ..... <a href="http://www.ci.huntington-woods.mi.us">www.ci.huntington-woods.mi.us</a>     | <b>REAL ESTATE</b><br>Birmingham/Bloomfield Rochester South Oakland                                                                               |
| <b>CREDIT BUREAUS</b><br>Ann Arbor Credit Bureau ..... <a href="http://www.a2cb.com">www.a2cb.com</a>                                      | <b>Association of Realtors</b> ..... <a href="http://www.justified.com">www.justified.com</a>                                                     |
| <b>DENTISTS</b><br>Novi Dental ..... <a href="http://www.novidental.com">www.novidental.com</a>                                            | <b>Detroit Board of Realtors</b> ..... <a href="http://www.detroitboardofrealtors.com">www.detroitboardofrealtors.com</a>                         |
| <b>DENTAL</b><br>Smile Maker ..... <a href="http://www.smilemaker.org/education">www.smilemaker.org/education</a>                          | <b>Longland Realtors</b> ..... <a href="http://www.longland.com">www.longland.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>ELECTRONIC SERVICE AND REPAIR</b><br>ABL Electronic Service, Inc. ..... <a href="http://www.ablerv.com">www.ablerv.com</a>              | <b>Sellers First Choice</b> ..... <a href="http://www.sellerschoice.com">www.sellerschoice.com</a>                                                |
| <b>ENGINEERING CONSULTING</b><br>International Technologies Consultants ..... <a href="http://www.itcfoam.com">www.itcfoam.com</a>         | <b>View Manual, Snyder &amp; Rankie</b> ..... <a href="http://www.viewmanual.com">www.viewmanual.com</a>                                          |
| <b>EYE CARE/LASER SURGERY</b><br>Greenberg Laser Eye Center ..... <a href="http://www.greenberglaser.com">www.greenberglaser.com</a>       | <b>Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors</b> ..... <a href="http://www.wwoac.com">www.wwoac.com</a>                                |
| <b>FESTIVALS</b><br>Michigan Eyecare Institute ..... <a href="http://www.michieyecare.com">www.michieyecare.com</a>                        | <b>RECYCLING SERVICES</b><br>Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority                                                                            |
| <b>FIBER</b><br>Linden Lane Farms ..... <a href="http://www.lindenlanefarms.com">www.lindenlanefarms.com</a>                               | <b>of Southwest Oakland County</b> ..... <a href="http://www.mraoc.org">www.mraoc.org</a>                                                         |
| <b>FLOORING</b><br>Andy's Hardwood Floors ..... <a href="http://www.andyshardwoodfloors.com">www.andyshardwoodfloors.com</a>               | <b>REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH</b><br>Midwest Fertility and                                                                                               |
| <b>GALLERIES</b><br>Cowboy Trader Gallery ..... <a href="http://www.cowboytradergallery.com">www.cowboytradergallery.com</a>               | <b>Sex Selection Center</b> ..... <a href="http://www.sexselectioncenter.com">www.sexselectioncenter.com</a>                                      |
| <b>HOLISTIC WELLNESS</b><br>Roots and Branches ..... <a href="http://www.rekplace.com">www.rekplace.com</a>                                | <b>Center for Reproductive</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>HOME BUILDERS</b><br>Belanger Builders, Inc. ..... <a href="http://www.belangerbuilders.com">www.belangerbuilders.com</a>               | <b>Medicine &amp; Surgery</b> ..... <a href="http://www.reproductive-medicine.com">www.reproductive-medicine.com</a>                              |
| <b>HOME IMPROVEMENTS</b><br>Accent Remodeling 1 Inc. ..... <a href="http://www.accentremodeling.com">www.accentremodeling.com</a>          | <b>RESORTS</b><br>Sandcastles on the Beach Resort ..... <a href="http://www.sandcastlesonthebeach.com">www.sandcastlesonthebeach.com</a>          |
| <b>LAUNDRY</b><br>Complete Carpet and Dust Cleaning ..... <a href="http://www.completecarpetanddust.com">www.completecarpetanddust.com</a> | <b>RESTAURANTS</b><br>Albans Restaurant ..... <a href="http://www.albans.com">www.albans.com</a>                                                  |
| <b>LAUNDRY</b><br>Mortis Painting ..... <a href="http://www.mortispainting.com">www.mortispainting.com</a>                                 | <b>Bistro 127</b> ..... <a href="http://www.bistro127.com">www.bistro127.com</a>                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>Gen's Hole In The Wall</b> ..... <a href="http://www.genitusa.com">www.genitusa.com</a>                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>Italian Epicure</b> ..... <a href="http://www.italian-epicure.com">www.italian-epicure.com</a>                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>Shelburne Grill</b> ..... <a href="http://www.shelburnegrill.com">www.shelburnegrill.com</a>                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES</b><br>Michigan Methodist Retirement Community ..... <a href="http://www.ummc.com">www.ummc.com</a>                     |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>SPORTS DEAR</b><br>Outdoor Pursuits ..... <a href="http://www.outdoorpursuits.com">www.outdoorpursuits.com</a>                                 |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>SURPLUS FOAM</b><br>McCullough Corporation ..... <a href="http://www.mccullough.com">www.mccullough.com</a>                                    |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>SURPLUS PRODUCTS</b><br>McCullough Corporation ..... <a href="http://www.mccullough.com">www.mccullough.com</a>                                |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT</b><br>HomeTown Digital ..... <a href="http://www.hometownlife.com">www.hometownlife.com</a>                              |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>WELL SERVICES</b><br>Keller Well Drilling ..... <a href="http://www.kellerwelldrilling.com">www.kellerwelldrilling.com</a>                     |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>WORSHIP</b><br>First Presbyterian Church Birmingham ..... <a href="http://www.fpcbirmingham.org">www.fpcbirmingham.org</a>                     |
|                                                                                                                                            | <b>YOUTH ATHLETICS</b><br>Westland Youth Athletic Association ..... <a href="http://www.wyaa.org">www.wyaa.org</a>                                |