

Chancellor's 2009 Distinguished Research, Public Service Awards Announced



Jennifer R. Grandis



Angela M. Gronenborn



Thomas L. Saaty



Judith Klein-Seetharaman



Kazunori Koide



John M. Burkoff



Toi Derricotte



Paul Douglas Newman

By Anthony M. Moore

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg has announced the winners of the 2009 Chancellor's Distinguished Research and Distinguished Public Service Awards.

The Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award will be given to the following five Pitt faculty members:

Jennifer R. Grandis, the UPMC Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Surgical Research, vice chair for research in Pitt's Department of Otolaryngology, and a professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology in Pitt's School of Medicine;

Angela M. Gronenborn, the UPMC Rosalind Franklin Professor and Chair in the School of Medicine's Department of Structural Biology;

Thomas L. Saaty, a professor of business administration and University Professor in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business;

Judith Klein-Seetharaman, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Structural Biology; and

Kazunori Koide, a professor in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry.

Grandis, Gronenborn, and Saaty were honored in the senior scholar category, which recognizes "an outstanding and continuing record of research and scholarly activity." Klein-Seetharaman and Koide were honored in the junior scholar category.

The three winners of the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award, which honors faculty for outstanding contributions to the community, are:

John M. Burkoff, a professor in the School of Law;

Toi Derricotte, a professor of English in the School of Arts and Sciences; and

Paul Douglas Newman, a professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Each awardee will receive a \$2,000 cash prize and a \$3,000 grant for the support of his or her teaching or research. The awardees will be recognized during Pitt's 33rd annual Honors Convocation on Friday, Feb. 27, and their names also will be inscribed on plaques to be displayed in the William Pitt Union.

Chancellor's Distinguished Research Awards

Grandis has received wide scientific acclaim and support for her work, as evidenced by a 2008 report in the journal *Nature* in which she was one of only 22

researchers in the nation who had eight or more grants from the National Institutes of Health in 2007. Her contributions to cancer research have been recognized by the recent awarding of the prestigious American Cancer Society Clinical Professorship for 2008-2013; she was the first person at the University of Pittsburgh to be accorded this honor and has been the only woman surgeon to win this award.

"Your research has contributed greatly to the development of new targeted therapies for patients with head and neck cancer," Nordenberg wrote in a Feb. 2 letter notifying Grandis of the Distinguished Research Award. "You were among the first to report the biological basis of enhanced growth of these tumors, and new effective drugs have been developed based upon the inhibition

of this cancer growth mechanism."

"Through your academic leadership and accomplishments in cancer research, you have brought remarkable recognition to the University of Pittsburgh," Nordenberg added.

Gronenborn is a structural biologist whose research is aimed at uncovering the structural basis of cellular interactions. Most of the research in her lab uses Nuclear Magnetic Resonance as a tool, and there are three primary areas of ongoing research, including a large program dedicated to HIV structural studies.

Gronenborn has published more than 350 peer-reviewed articles, organized numerous international conferences, and been recognized as a fellow of the Royal

Society of Chemistry in London and a Fellow of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance. In 2007, she was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

In his letter informing Gronenborn of her Distinguished Research Award, Nordenberg said, "You have achieved national and international eminence as an outstanding scholar in your field. ... The investigative methods that you developed to further your research are now used in academic and industrial laboratories throughout the world—and have been used by other scientists to conduct groundbreaking research."

Continued on page 6

Pitt Gender Wage Gap Conference Explores National and Regional Pay Inequality

By Morgan Kelly

Wages for the average working woman in Southwestern Pennsylvania trail those of her local male counterpart and of her female colleagues in most of the nation's large economic regions. Even so, women in the United States are still pushing for equal pay, as evidenced by the recent passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the pending Paycheck Fairness Act now before the U.S. Senate.

To explore the regional—and national—disparity's roots and remedies, the University of Pittsburgh will host a daylong conference of nationally recognized wage-disparity scholars and advocates of equal-pay policy Feb. 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Teplitz Memorial Courtroom, Barco Law Building. Titled *The Gender Wage Gap: Strategies for the Future*, the conference is sponsored by Pitt's School of Law, the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), and the College of General Studies (CGS).

The program begins at 9 a.m. with a keynote address by Jocelyn Frye, the newly appointed director of policy and projects for First Lady Michelle Obama and deputy assistant to President Obama for domestic policy. Prior to this appointment, Frye served as general counsel of the National



Partnership for Women and Families, which advocates for working parents on issues ranging from equal pay to family leave. She also directed the partnership's Workplace Fairness Program and was actively involved in securing passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act signed into law Jan. 29, the first bill signed by President Barack Obama. The law reverses the U.S. Supreme Court's 2007 ruling in *Ledbetter v. Good-*

year Tire and Rubber Co., which required Title VII complainants to challenge any pay discrimination under the statute within 180 days of the time the discriminatory decision was made, even if the discrimination was ongoing and not discovered until years later. A companion bill, the Paycheck Fairness Act—which would strengthen the 1963

Continued on page 3

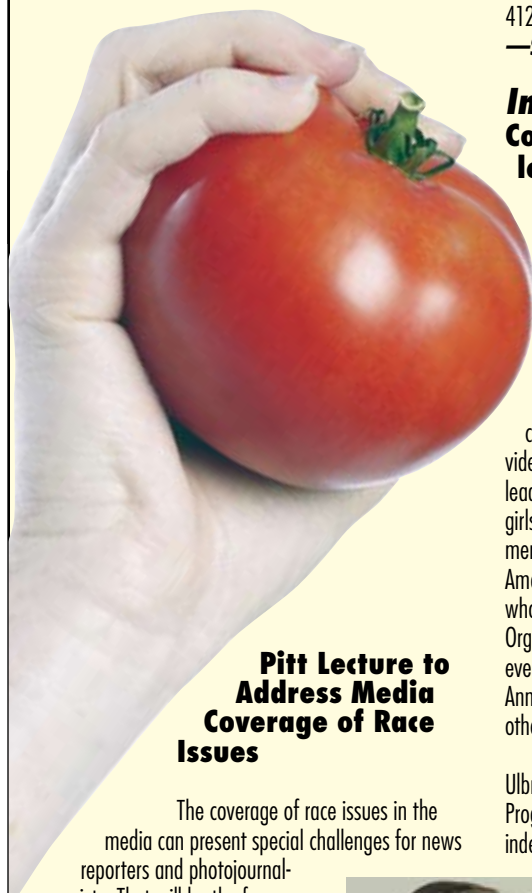
Briefly Noted



Pitt Interactive Wellness Event Set for Feb. 17

The Healthy Lifestyle Experience2, Pitt's second annual interactive wellness event, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. The event, which is free to Pitt faculty and staff, will include healthy cooking demonstrations, organic fruit and other food samples, chair massages, blood pressure and body composition assessments, nutrition advice sessions, and a dining-out workshop.

For more information, call LifeSolutions at 1-866-647-3432 or visit www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits.



Pitt Lecture to Address Media Coverage of Race Issues

The coverage of race issues in the media can present special challenges for news reporters and photojournalists. That will be the focus of a lecture presented at the University of Pittsburgh by Mark Roth, senior staff writer at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Roth's talk, "Not All Black and White: The Challenges of Covering Race in the Mass Media," will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 17 in Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning.

As an editor for the *Post-Gazette*, Roth was



Mark Roth

instrumental in editing projects, one of which won a Pulitzer Prize for photojournalism and another that was a Pulitzer finalist in investigative journalism. He has managed several other award-winning series and was an editor of stories on both of this region's devastating airline crashes—the US Air Flight 427 accident on Sept. 8, 1994, and the terror-related crash of United Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001. The special section produced on that crash won the Penny Missouri National Award for Special Sections in 2002.

The talk, part of the Reed Smith Spring 2009 Speaker Series at CRSP, is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, and lunch will be provided. For more information, call 412-624-7382.

—Sharon S. Blake

In Sisterhood Exhibition Comes to Pitt's Kimbo Gallery

The multimedia exhibition *In Sisterhood* will be on display at the University of Pittsburgh's Kimbo Gallery in the William Pitt Union from Feb. 16 to 27.

In Sisterhood features a portrait gallery of 16 local leaders of the women's movement during the latter half of the 20th century. The exhibition includes a 15-minute video of excerpts from oral histories about the leaders' work to gain equal rights for women and girls in Southwest Pennsylvania. Also featured are memorabilia from the women's private collections. Among the leaders featured are Eleanor Smeal—who rose through the ranks of the National Organization for Women while living in Pittsburgh, eventually assuming the NOW presidency in 1977, Ann Begler, Alma Speed Fox, Cynthia Vanda, and other leading feminists.

The project is being directed by Patricia Ulbrich, a visiting scholar in Pitt's Women's Studies Program, a progressive social scientist, and an independent scholar. For more than three decades, Ulbrich's research has focused on women's studies and women's issues, including the history of the women's movement and how individuals' race, class, and gender shape their life chances.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, at noon, Ulbrich will preview the exhibition with a lecture titled "The Greater Pittsburgh Area NOW: Building a Grass Roots Movement," in 2201 Posvar Hall.

There will be an opening reception and panel titled "Archiving Women's Activism" on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the William Pitt Union's Kurtzman Room.

Pitt Series, Archival Agitators and Advocates, Explores Issues Surrounding Preservation of Public Records

By Morgan Kelly

Archives—those repositories of the present for accountability of the past—require more than simply collecting papers. To compile and maintain an archive requires a dogged adherence to transparency, social and historical context, and, in some cases, a sense of purpose, as nationally known archivists will attest in the lecture series *Archival Agitators and Advocates*, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences (iSchool). The iSchool's Institute for Information Ethics and Policy is cosponsoring the series with the Pitt student chapter of the Society of American Archivists.

Speakers ranging from the Seneca Nation's head archivist to a staunch critic of executive privilege in the White House will discuss the preservation of public knowledge and records in light of personal privacy, government and corporate activities, and intellectual property. These issues involve equipping a new generation of archivists so they can become more effective advocates for their programs and the archival mission.

Each one-hour lecture will begin at 11 a.m. in Room 501 of the Information Sciences Building. An informal 10:30 a.m. coffee session with the speaker will precede each event. The lectures are free and open to the public. Lecture dates and brief biographies of the speakers follow.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Scholar Anthony Clark will offer dispatches from his ongoing exploration of every presidential library in the United States in his lecture "Presidential Libraries: The Last Campaign; How Presidents Rewrite History, Run for Posterity, and Enshrine Their Legacies." Clark is completing a history of the presidential libraries, a project that has taken him to every U.S. presidential library, where he has evaluated the experiences of visitors to these institutions; interviewed docents, guards, and library staff; worked in their public research rooms; and examined the administrative and other files in and about these institutions. Clark has worked for the past 17 years as an information technology consultant and writer. From 2004 to 2005, he was the director of planning and information technology for the Washington, D.C.-based Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, which has been described as a presidential library for the Pope.

Friday, Feb. 20

David L. George-Shongo Jr., archivist for the Seneca Nation, will discuss the creation and challenges of the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials, conventions designed by tribal and nontribal archivists to ensure the safe and respectful acquisition and use of Native American documents, records, and historical accounts. In his lecture "The Protocols for Native American Archival Materials and the Future of Archival Work," George-Shongo addresses the specific challenges of implementing the protocols, such as considering and working with various tribal values, cultures, and knowledge systems. George-Shongo became the first archivist for the Seneca Nation in 2004 and, in 2005, the first



chair of the Society of American Archivists' Native American Archives Roundtable. He was re-elected to that position in 2006 and served until 2007.

Friday, April 10

Bruce P. Montgomery, faculty director of archives at the University of Colorado at Boulder (UCB), frames the future of archival studies within the battle over Presidential executive privilege that has pitted the White House against Congress and the public since the 1970s. In his lecture, "From Richard M. Nixon to George W. Bush: Government Secrecy and the Archival Profession," Montgomery says that as the three branches of government fought over the proper limits of open government—issues that should have been of vital concern to archivists—the archival profession mostly traveled a timid path during the past 30 years. The question now is whether the profession has sufficiently emerged as a vibrant field that it is willing to address the most salient issues of the day involving government secrecy and the public's right to know. Montgomery is the founding director of the UCB Human Rights Initiative and a founding member of the International Federation of Human Rights Centers and Archives. He has served as an analyst of classified documents for the U.S. government and is currently a consultant for the Institute for Defense Analysis—a Pentagon-funded think tank—to help set up a digital archive of captured al-Qaeda, Taliban, and Saddam Hussein-era records.

More information on the lectures is available on the iSchool Web site at www.ischool.pitt.edu/archivalagitators.

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Correction

Pitt staffer Susan C. Heiss spearheaded a fundraising effort to assist a woman in Tanzania escape an abusive situation, not Pitt's Institute of Politics, as was suggested in the Feb. 2 *Pitt Chronicle* article, "Chancellor Names 2009 Staff Excellence Awardees."

PittScholars&Stewards

Making a Difference

Emma Rose supports Pitt to pave path for other students

For Emma Rose (CAS '45), giving to the University of Pittsburgh has always been a family tradition.

"I was just a little girl when the Cathedral of Learning was being built and the chancellor asked everyone to contribute to the University's building fund," Rose said. "My father encouraged me to make a donation, so I gave 10 cents to help with the construction."

Since then, the Cathedral of Learning has been a symbol of inspiration, scholarship, and achievement for this East Liberty, Pa., native who now resides in Hartford, Conn.

"During the years of the Great Depression, the Cathedral of Learning offered hope to my family. When we saw the Cathedral in the horizon, my father would often tell me that Pitt would be the institution that would open the doors of opportunity to me," Rose said.

Just as her father predicted, Rose pursued a college education at Pitt. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Pitt's College of Arts and Sciences and a master's degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology Library School (now part of Pitt's School of Information Sciences), Rose moved to Hartford, to become the librarian for the Ropkins Branch of the Hartford Public Library. The Ropkins Branch is part of SAND Elementary School, which is named for the South Arsenal Neighbor-

hood Development, a 1960s neighborhood action league.

For 36 years, Rose was committed to making SAND Elementary School a better place to learn. In addition to serving as librarian at the school, she was treasurer and chair of the fundraising committee of the Parent Teacher Community Organization; sponsored extracurricular activities for students, such as the Computer Club and the Cooking and Sewing Club; coordinated the publication of two of the school's yearbooks; and served as the building representative for the Hartford Education Association.

**"During the years of the Great Depression, the Cathedral of Learning offered hope to my family. When we saw the Cathedral in the horizon, my father would often tell me that Pitt would be the institution that would open the doors of opportunity to me."
—Emma Rose**

"I loved being a school librarian because I was able to work with children," she said. "Whether I was teaching library skills or coordinating reading activities, I was always interacting with the children in my school."

Rose's dedication to the school and its children didn't go unnoticed. When she retired in 1993, the Hartford Board of Education named the SAND Elementary School library the Emma E. Rose Media Center/Ropkins Public Library in her honor.

Not only did Rose contribute to the Hartford community during her time at SAND Elementary, she also has been a faithful contributor to Pitt's Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, of which she was a member, and the University of Pittsburgh. Rose created a charitable gift

annuity to support the African American Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund in Pitt's School of Nursing.

While providing tuition assistance to students was her top priority, there is another poignant inspiration behind her gift to the School of Nursing.

"When I was in school during World War II, we needed more soldiers and more nurses. Back then, although we needed people to fill these needs, racial prejudice was on the rise," explained Rose. "My friends Rachel Johnson Poole, Nadine Frye, and Adena Johnson Davis, all aspiring nurses, had a difficult time applying to nursing programs in the Pittsburgh area because they were African American. But, in 1943, they were all accepted into Pitt's School of Nursing. The University made history that day as the first nursing program in Western Pennsylvania to admit African Americans," Rose recalled.

Rose was encouraged to support Pitt's nursing program because the University offered her longtime friends and sorority sisters the opportunity to earn nursing degrees.

The African American Nursing Alumni Committee established the scholarship fund in 1989. Since then, the committee has raised more than \$42,592 from 138 donors.



Emma Rose

Over the years, this scholarship has helped ease the financial burden of educational costs for 25 students, and Rose's gift has helped the fund continue to grow.

"In my life, I've learned that you can do more as a group than you can by yourself. That's why I chose to support this scholarship fund," said Rose. "Together, we can all make a difference in the lives of Pitt students."

COURTESY OF PITT'S OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Pitt Gender Wage Gap Conference Explores National and Regional Pay Inequality

Continued from page 1

Equal Pay Act's guarantee of comparable wages for men and women who do the same job—passed the U.S. House in January and is now pending in the U.S. Senate.

The first panel begins at 10:15 a.m. and will survey some of the latest research into gender wage disparity. The panel includes Lise Vesterlund, a Pitt professor of economics, who studies the small number of women in top corporate positions; Duquesne University economics professor Charles Wilf, who launched a survey of graduating college seniors that found that female students expect to earn less than males; Sabina Deitrick, a professor in Pitt's Graduate School of



Deborah Brake

Public and International Affairs and codirector of UCSUR's Urban and Regional Analysis Program; and Chris Briem, an UCSUR regional economist. In March 2008, Deitrick, Briem, and Pitt political science professor Susan Hansen released a report

to the public revealing that the wage gap between men and women in the Pittsburgh region exceeds the national average (www.ucsur.pitt.edu/publications.htm). Deitrick will moderate the panel.

Linda Babcock, coauthor of the book *Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide* (Princeton University Press, 2003), will deliver the second keynote address at noon. A Carnegie Mellon University professor of economics, Babcock studies gender differences in negotiations and dispute resolution. Her book—coauthored with writer and editor Sara Laschever—found that women are much less likely than men to use negotiation

to improve their circumstances, costing them lost wages and delayed career advancement.

The second panel begins at 1:45 p.m. and examines legal and public policy responses to wage disparity. The panel

includes Heather Arnet, executive director of the Women and Girls Foundation and a Pittsburgh Public Schools board member; Pitt law professor Deborah Brake, a nationally recognized scholar on gender discrimination who testified before Congress in 2008 in support of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; Pennsylvania State Senator Jane Orié (R-McCandless), who has advocated for pay equity in the Pennsylvania legislature; and Pittsburgh City Council President Doug Shields, who has supported research into equal wages among city employees. Susan Frietsche, a senior staff attorney at the Women's Law Project, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization for women, will moderate the panel.

The third panel, beginning at 3:30 p.m., features successful female graduates of Pitt's College of General Studies offering strategies for women to succeed in the workplace and close the wage gap. The panelists include

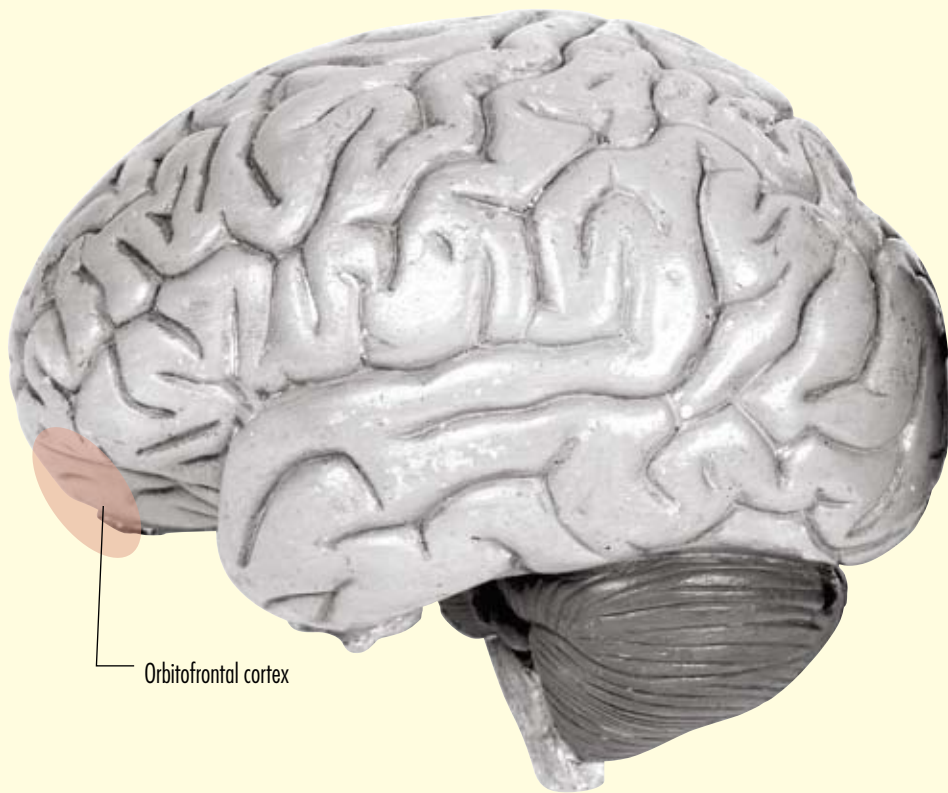
The program begins at 9 a.m. with a keynote address by Jocelyn Frye, the newly appointed director of policy and projects for First Lady Michelle Obama and deputy assistant to President Barack Obama for domestic policy.

Mary Francis Gargotta (CGS '79), executive vice president and chief executive resources officer of MARC USA in Pittsburgh; Terri Marts (CGS '81), president of URS Corporation's Washington Defense Group, a \$600-million business unit that contracts with the U.S. government; and Anna Roman (CGS '82). Hansen, who studies women and politics, will moderate the panel.

For the conference schedule or to register, visit the Pitt Law School Web site at www.law.pitt.edu/genderconf or call 412-648-7796.

Brief biographies of the conference participants can be found at www.pitt.edu/news2009/gender_gap_conference_bios.html.

Science & Technology



Brain's Impulse Control Region Affected in Teens With Genetic Vulnerability to Alcoholism

By Anita Srikameswaran

A recent study suggests that genetic factors influence size variations in a certain region of the brain, which could in turn be partly responsible for increased susceptibility to alcohol dependence.

It appears that the size of the right orbitofrontal cortex (OFC), an area of the brain that is involved in regulating emotional processing and impulsive behavior, is smaller in teenagers and young adults who have several relatives who are alcohol dependent, according to a study led by Shirley Hill, professor of psychiatry in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In the research, published in the online version of *Biological Psychiatry*, Hill and her team imaged the brains of 107 teens and young adults using magnetic resonance imaging. They also examined variation in certain genes of the participants and administered a well-validated questionnaire to measure the youngsters' tendency to be impulsive.

The participants included 63

individuals who were selected for the study because they had multiple alcohol-dependent family members, suggesting a genetic predisposition, and 44 who had no close relatives dependent on drugs or alcohol. Those with several alcohol-dependent relatives were more likely to have reduced volume of the OFC.

When the investigators looked at two genes, 5-HTT and BDNF, they found certain variants that led to a reduction in white matter volume in the OFC, and that in turn was associated with greater impulsivity.

"We are beginning to understand how genetic factors can lead to structural brain changes that may make people more vulnerable to alcoholism," Hill said. "These results also support our earlier findings of reduced volume of other brain regions in high-risk kids."

These differences can be observed even before the high-risk offspring start drinking excessively, she added, "leading us to conclude that they are predisposing factors in the cause of this disease, rather than a consequence of it."

The study was supported by grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

"We are beginning to understand how genetic factors can lead to structural brain changes that may make people more vulnerable to alcoholism. These results also support our earlier findings of reduced volume of other brain regions in high-risk kids."

—Shirley Hill

Pitt, Children's Researchers Use Novel Stem Cells to Repair Injured Heart Muscles in Mice

By Marc Lukasiak

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC have been able to effectively repair damaged heart muscle in an animal model using a novel population of stem cells they discovered that is derived from human skeletal muscle tissue.

The research team at Children's Hospital is led by Johnny Huard, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery, Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, Bioengineering, and Pathology. He is also the Henry J. Mankin Professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Huard transplanted stem cells purified from human muscle-derived blood vessels into the hearts of mice that had heart damage similar to that which would occur in people who had suffered a heart attack.

These transplanted myoendothelial cells repaired the injured muscle, stimulated the growth of new blood vessels in the heart, and reduced scar tissue from the injury, thereby dramatically improving the function of the injured left ventricle, said Huard, director of the Stem Cell Research Center in Children's Hospital's John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center.

"This study confirms our belief that this novel population of stem cells discovered in our laboratory holds tremendous promise for the future of regenerative medicine. Specifically, myoendothelial cells show potential as a therapy for people who have suffered a myocardial infarction," said Huard. "The important benefit of our approach is that as a therapy, it could be an autologous transplant. This means that for a patient who suffers a heart attack, we would take a muscle biopsy from his or her muscle, isolate and purify the myoendothelial cells, and reinject them into the injured heart muscle, thereby avoiding any risk of rejection by introducing foreign cells."

Results of the study were published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

The myoendothelial cells used in this study were more effective at repairing the injured cardiac muscle and reducing scar tissue

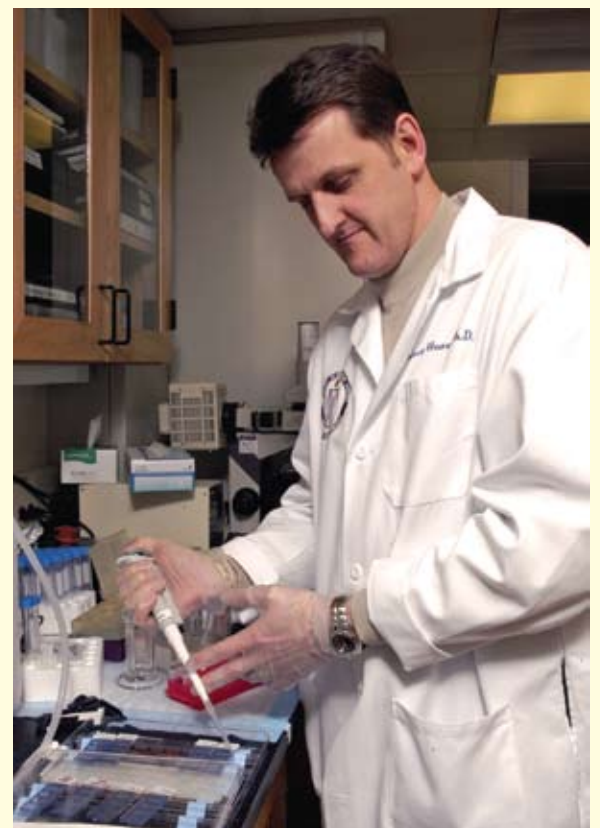
than previous approaches that have used muscle cells known as myoblasts, according to Huard. At six weeks after injection, the myoendothelial cell-injected hearts functioned 40 to 50 percent more effectively compared with hearts that had been injected with myogenic cells (myoblasts).

"This study confirms our belief that this novel population of stem cells discovered in our laboratory holds tremendous promise for the future of regenerative medicine. Specifically, myoendothelial cells show potential as a therapy for people who have suffered a myocardial infarction."

—Johnny Huard

Huard and colleagues in the Stem Cell Research Center are researching and developing numerous therapeutic uses for the population of muscle stem cells that the team identified. One of the most promising uses could be for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a genetic disease that affects one in every 3,500 boys. Patients with DMD lack dystrophin, a protein that gives muscle cells structure.

Huard is an internationally recognized cell biologist conducting laboratory research into the therapeutic use of stem cells to treat a variety of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic diseases and injuries. In the lab, Huard is developing cutting-edge therapies to regenerate bone, cartilage, and peripheral nerve and to repair damaged skeletal muscle after sports and military injuries.



Johnny Huard

BlackHistoryMonth

Lucile Adams-Campbell

A Woman of Many Passions

Lucile Adams-Campbell dedicates her career to eliminating health disparities

By Amanda Leff

Growing up, Lucile Adams-Campbell had an extraordinary number of passions. She was a one-person quartet, playing the piano, clarinet, saxophone, and guitar. She was a star athlete in track and field, and a budding mathematician and scientist.

Today, not much has changed. She still possesses a great love for music and continues to be a runner. She fits those passions into her hectic schedule of balancing responsibilities as a mother and an internationally recognized expert on health disparities.

Adams-Campbell received her PhD in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983 and completed a National Institutes of Health-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Pitt as well. She then joined Pitt's Department of Epidemiology as an adjunct professor.

While studying epidemiology at Pitt, Adams-Campbell was the only Black doctoral student in her program.

"Other than standing out by virtue of the color of my skin, I can say without any reservations that I succeeded in my doctoral program just as my classmates did—by hard work, dedication, and perseverance," says Adams-Campbell. "My experience at Pitt positively impacted my life, as evidenced by my career achievements."

Specializing in community health research, interventions, and outreach, Adams-Campbell has played a leading role in the Washington, D.C., public health community. With a focus on cancer prevention, she studies the issues and factors that affect populations, such as African Americans, who have a greater risk of developing cancer. In September 2008, she was appointed associate director of Minority Health and Health Disparities Research at Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In addition, Adams-Campbell's lifelong work on health disparities has resulted in her induction into the Institute of Medicine (IOM), an honor membership organization that is a component of the National Academy of Sciences and serves as a national advisory body on matters of health and science policy. She will officially be inducted into the IOM in October 2009.

Prior to delving into the world of health disparities, Adams-Campbell studied chemical engineering at Drexel University—where she received her bachelor's degree in biological sciences and her master's degree in biomedical science.

"I decided I did not want to pursue



Lucile Adams-Campbell

PHIL HUNNECKY

pipes and fluid dynamics any further—I wanted to get involved on the human side of research," she says.

Adams-Campbell recalls being tired of reading about research that dismissed the importance of studying the health of African Americans and other underrepresented groups. She became determined to be a scientist in the field of epidemiology, and she wanted to be sure she always had adequate sample sizes of underrepresented populations.

"I always thought it was practical to address the health of people who were not doing as well, who had poor survival rates," she says. "I think populations that are more likely to be sicker from a disease—whether it's hypertension or breast cancer—deserve and warrant attention."

Adams-Campbell has led several large cohort studies of African American women and played a leading role in bringing to Washington, D.C., the Boston University Black Women's Health Study, the largest study of African American women to date.

Adams-Campbell, the primary investigator in D.C. for that study, was part of the original group of researchers who began the study in 1995—though it took three attempts for the group to secure funding. The Black Women's Health Study has overcome great odds since its slow beginnings in the mid-'90s.

"We were told that we probably could not recruit more than 800 women, so for us to get 59,000 nationally and to consistently track them with a high follow-up rate—this is a remarkable accomplishment," she says. "People thought that we couldn't, but we're the little train that could."

In addition to recruiting such a high number of study participants, the researchers have collected DNA samples for future genetic studies from 26,000 African American women.

"We have our finger on the pulse of this minority community better than anyone else," says Adams-Campbell. "To me, it's been one of the biggest and most important studies I have been involved with."

Inspired by many great minds throughout her life, Adams-Campbell fondly recalls the influence of Lewis Kuller, professor of public health and former chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Lewis Kuller played a major role in my success," she says. "He was supportive of my research area of focus—African Americans—at a time when there was, to my knowledge, virtually no research being conducted on this population at the Graduate School of Public Health. He also supported me financially and academically to conduct hypertension research in Benin City, Nigeria, among schoolchildren. This work resulted in my receipt of the New Investigator award, the first grant I ever received from the National Institutes of Health, with Dr. Kuller serving as my mentor."

Kuller says Adams-Campbell stood out among her peers and was a major contributor to Pitt's epidemiology program, both as a student and faculty member. "She did a lot here—important pioneering studies," he said.

Other positive influences in her life, she says, were her parents, both of whom earned master's degrees. Her late father, an accountant and linguistic analyst, was especially supportive of the academic life.

"He was definitely very much interested in and supportive of upward mobility," she says.

Today, Adams-Campbell has two children of her own. Her son is a sophomore at Emory University, and her daughter is a sophomore in high school. Both of her children inherited her love of running, and she and her husband, who is a lawyer, travel all over the country to watch their children's varsity track meets.

"We make concessions," she says. "We've had to figure out how to coordinate schedules so we can be there with the children."

As for her hopes for the field of epidemiology, Adams-Campbell says she wants to see reduced mortality rates in African American and other underrepresented populations. She also would like to see the obesity epidemic wiped out.

"We have to change our lifestyle," she says. "We need more behavior interventions to get people to exercise more and eat better—especially starting at a very young age—to stop this obesity."

She says she hopes most of all to see a reduction or elimination of the disparity between the people at the highest risk and the people at the lowest risk for all diseases and cancers—whether it is African Americans and other underrepresented groups or White individuals.

"Lewis Kuller played a major role in my success. He was supportive of my research area of focus—African Americans—at a time when there was, to my knowledge, virtually no research being conducted on this population at the Graduate School of Public Health."
—Lucile Adams-Campbell

Chancellor's 2009 Distinguished Research, Public Service Awards Announced

Continued from page 1

Satty is best known for developing the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), a structured technique for assisting individuals in complex decision-making, a technique that he later generalized in the form of the Analytic Network Process (ANP).

AHP has been used in both individual and group decision-making by business, industry, and governments and is particularly applicable to complex, large-scale, multiparty, multicriteria decision problems. ANP has been applied to a variety of decisions involving benefits, costs, opportunities, and risks and is particularly useful in predicting outcomes.

Satty has been recognized as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has been elected a member of the International Academy of Management and the National Academy of Engineering. He has been awarded the Gold Medal from The International Society of Multicriteria Decision Making as well as an Impact Prize from the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences for the development of AHP.

"You are considered by your peers to be one of the most distinguished contributors to operations research and the general field of decision-making," Nordenberg wrote in his letter informing Satty of his Distinguished Research Award.

As a world leader in rhodopsin research, **Klein-Seetharaman** has played an integral role in the development of the field, along with contributing significantly to the challenging problem of protein folding. Rhodopsin is a pigment of the retina that is responsible for both the formation of photoreceptor cells and the first events in the perception of light.

Klein-Seetharaman has served as a speaker or session chair at numerous retinal conferences and has received speaking invitations from around the world, including Germany, Japan, and Spain. She has been awarded the National Science Foundation's Career Award, the Sofya Kovalevskaya Prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the Margaret Oakley Dayhoff Award from the Biophysical Society, given to "a woman who holds very high promise of achieving prominence while developing the early stages of a career."

Klein-Seetharaman also received a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Award for her proposal titled "Identification of New Drug Targets by Linking HIV Function to Protein Interaction Pathways."

Nordenberg wrote, "You have an unusual gift for doing both theory and experimental work in your research. ... It is remarkable that you have managed to integrate work in disparate areas of research at multiple institutions with creativity, enthusiasm, scientific depth, and broadness. Your productivity has been stellar."

Koide has put together an acclaimed program in two different areas of chemical research. He has contributed in important ways to research aimed at the total synthesis of anticancer natural products and in the area of chemical sensors.

"This work has garnered recognition and considerable attention in both the scientific literature and the lay press. Your research also provides prime opportunities for commercialization, and the University has signed license agreements for your technologies in both areas of research," Nordenberg wrote.

Koide is a recipient of the Pitt Innovator Award, Thieme Chemistry Journals Award, and the Merck Fellowship of the Cancer Research Fund of the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Foundation, as well as the Naito

Foundation Fellowship. He has received grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the University of Pittsburgh, and other organizations.

Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Awards

Burkoff was recognized for his public service contributions in the areas of professional and judicial ethics, continuing judicial education, and oversight of the local law enforcement system.

In choosing Burkoff, the selection committee said he has played a leading role in providing continuing education to Pennsylvania's judges in his areas of expertise. The committee noted that he has regularly served as a faculty member at the annual Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Judicial Education Conference since 1984, and it specifically cited his 2006 appointment by the chief justice of Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Commission on Judicial Independence.

Nordenberg wrote, "The committee also was impressed by your contributions as a member of the specially appointed panel that was convened to investigate what it ultimately concluded was the wrongful awarding of an MBA degree at West Virginia University to a highly placed executive MBA student. Closer to home, the committee noted your service as the founding chair of the City of Pittsburgh's Citizen Police Review Board and as a member of the Allegheny County District Attorney's Use of Force Working Group."

In a letter supporting Burkoff's nomination, Pitt Board of Trustees Chair Ralph Cappy, former chief justice of Pennsylvania, wrote, "I am not sure I can express in this letter how important a role the professor has played over the last 25 years in our efforts to maintain a high level of commitment and competence in our state judiciary."

Derricotte was recognized for her service as cofounder and director of Cave Canem, an organization that has fostered the development and nurturing of African American poets through a series of programs that includes a weeklong writing retreat on the Pitt-Greensburg campus. During Derricotte's tenure as its director, Cave Canem has secured significant, multiyear capacity-building grants, including \$310,000 from the Ford Foundation, \$150,000 from the Lannan Foundation, and \$50,000 from Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Derricotte is the author of more than a thousand poems in published anthologies and journals as well as six books, including *Tender* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997) and *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey* (W.W. Norton & Company, 1999).

Nordenberg wrote, "I have long admired your work, and it gives me great pleasure to formally acknowledge your exemplary service to the greater good. The many beneficiaries of your efforts appreciate the hard work and dedication that have characterized your service to the community."

In a letter supporting Derricotte's nomination, David Bartholomae, chair of Pitt's English department, wrote, "Toi's work with Cave Canem has always been a labor of love. She receives no compensation for the time, energy, and vision she provides—and this includes her regular and constant presence at the summer workshops."

Newman was recognized for his work in advancing knowledge of the local community's history by working with high school teachers to involve their students in community heritage projects that immerse them in active scholarly research.

In addition to pursuing his own teaching, research, and writing on the Pitt-Johnstown campus, Newman volunteered to assist students at Northern Cambria High School with the production of the book *As the Dust Settles, Revealing Those Seldom Seen* (Gazette Printing, 2007), which looks at the bituminous coal mining heritage of Western Pennsylvania. He also assisted the high school students in producing *Vietnam War Vets and the Approach of the Golden Anniversary*, a video documentary involving in-depth interviews with local Vietnam War veterans who reflected on their wartime experiences as well as their experiences upon returning home.

In a letter supporting Newman's nomination, Charles Cashdollar, president of the

Pennsylvania Historical Association, wrote, "Paul's editorial contribution is an important public service for scholars, public school teachers, and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

Nordenberg wrote Newman that "the selection committee was particularly impressed by your work on community heritage projects with teachers and students from the Northern Cambria High School. The projects, which you coordinated and managed, provided the students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in active scholarly research. In doing so, the students were exposed to grant writing, interview techniques, field research, publication, and video production."



Pitt's Spring 2009 Job, Internship Fair Set for February 11-12

By Shawn Ahearn

The University of Pittsburgh will host its Spring 2009 Job/Internship Fair on Feb. 11-12 in the William Pitt Union. The Student Employment and Placement Assistance (SEPA) Office within the Division of Student Affairs will welcome more than 150 employers from around the country to campus to conduct interviews for technical and nontechnical jobs and internships.

The event, which is free and open to all current Pitt students and alumni, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days. The fair on Wednesday, Feb. 11, will feature employers seeking to hire students for full-time employment and internships in such

technical fields as engineering, computer science, and information science. On Thursday, Feb. 12, the focus will be on jobs and internships in the arts, sciences, and business fields.

The event, which is free and open to all current Pitt students and alumni, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days. The fair on Wednesday, Feb. 11, will feature employers seeking to hire students for full-time employment and internships in such technical fields as engineering, computer science, and information science.

Interviews will be conducted for fulltime positions and internships, according to Cheryl Finlay, SEPA director. "Every day we hear about downsizing and layoffs, but we have more than 150 companies from the corporate sector, government, and nonprofit industries coming to our campus to conduct interviews," she said.

Kathy Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students, emphasized the importance of attending the job fair.

Happenings



Patricia Bellan-Gillen, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, through March 15

Concerts

An Evening With Jerome Kern, featuring the All-Star College Chorus, Marvin Hamlish, conductor, **Feb. 12-15,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, PNC Pittsburgh Symphony POPS! 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Free Oboe Concert by Cynthia DeAlmeida, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra principal oboist, a preview of the Haydn Oboe Concerto in C Major to be performed with PSO later this month, 7 p.m. **Feb. 12,** Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd., McCandless Township, registration required, call 412-366-8100 ext. 113

Get the Led Out, musicians perform hits by Led Zeppelin, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 13,** Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center, Pitt-Johnstown, 814-269-7200, www.upjarts.com.

Our Musical Neighborhood, family concert featuring pieces by Henry Mancini and Fred Rogers, 11:15 a.m. **Feb. 14,** Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave., Downtown, Fiddlesticks Family Concerts Season, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 412-392-4900, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

The Wiyos and Joel Mabus, Vaudevillian ragtime, jugband, blues, and hillbilly swing, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 14,** Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, 412-361-1915, www.calliopehouse.org.

Words of Love, Daphne Alderson, cabaret singer; 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 14,** dinner package available, Heinz Chapel Annual Valentine's Day Cabaret, to purchase tickets or make dinner reservations, call 412-624-4157, www.heinzchapel.pitt.edu.

Love Stories and Songs at Little E's Jazz Club, with Lilly Abreu, 8 p.m. **Feb. 14,** Little E's Jazz Club, 2nd floor, 949 Liberty Ave., Downtown, 412-392-2217, www.allaboutjazz.com.

Chamber Choir Festival, featuring Heinz Chapel Choir, 3 p.m. **Feb. 15,** Heinz Chapel, 412-624-4157, www.heinzchapel.pitt.edu.

Exhibitions

Carnegie Museum of Art, Giovanni Battista Piranesi: *Architecture and the Spaces of the Imagination*, prints from the series *Imaginary Prisons* and *Views of Rome*, through **Feb. 15,** 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, 412-622-3131, www.cmoa.org.

Free Oboe Concert
Northland Public Library
February 12

KOA Art Gallery, *The People, Place, Things: Photography Exhibition*, by photographer Ward Roe, through **Feb. 27,** Blaisdell Hall, Pitt-Bradford, Spectrum Series, 814-362-5271, www.upb.pitt.edu.

Miller Gallery, *Signs of Change: Social Movement Cultures 1960s to Now*, guest curated by Dara Greenwald and Josh MacPhee, through **March 8,** Carnegie Mellon University, Purnell Center for the Arts, 5000 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill, 412-268-3618, www.emu.edu/millergallery.

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 99, through **March 15;** *Casey Reas/Marius Watz: New Generative Form*, curated by Golan Levin; *Zoo. Logic+* by Pat Bellan-Gillen; *Transformations*, exhibition of local and national bead artists; all through **April 15,** 6300 Fifth Ave., Shadyside, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, 412-361-0873, www.pittsburgharts.org.

Mattress Factory, *Predrive: After Technology*, through **March 22,** 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side, 412-231-3169, www.mattress.org.

Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries, through **April 5,** exhibition by the University of Pittsburgh at the Senator John Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District, 412-454-6000, www.pghhistory.org.

Film

Vidas Secas (1963), directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 11,** Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's Center for Latin American Studies, Amigos del Cine Latino Americano Spring 2009 Series, www.amigosdelcinelatinoamericano.blogspot.com.

Sangue. La Morte Non Esiste (2006), directed by Libero De Rienzo, 7 p.m. **Feb. 13,** Bellefield Hall Auditorium, New Italian Cinema 2000-08: History, Family, Violence Series, Pitt's Film Studies and Cultural Studies programs, 412-624-5222, www.filmstudies.pitt.edu.

Mio Fratello è Figlio Unico (2007), directed by Daniele Luchetti, 7 p.m. **Feb. 14,** Bellefield Hall Auditorium, New Italian Cinema 2000-08: History, Family, Violence Series, Pitt's Film Studies and Cultural Studies programs, 412-624-5222, www.filmstudies.pitt.edu.

Lectures/Seminars/Readings

"Do We Know What Is Really Going on in Iraq?," Raed Jarrar, Iraqi political analyst and consultant for the American Friends Service Committee, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 9,** Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pitt's Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies, Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

School of Information Sciences Information Session for prospective students, 6:30-8 p.m. **Feb. 9,** Room 522, Information Sciences Building, 412-624-3988, www.ischool.pitt.edu.

"Charles Darwin 200th Birthday Lecture," Janet Browne, author and Harvard University's Aramont Professor of the History of Science, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 9,** Carnegie Music Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Drue Heinz Lecture Series, 412-622-8866, www.pittsburghlectures.org.

"Careers in Public Policy," Donna Keyser, RAND Corp. management scientist, noon-1:30 p.m. **Feb. 10,** brown bag lunch for graduate students and postdocs, Room S100, Biomedical Science Tower 2, Careers Over Lunch, Survival Skills and Ethics Program, 412-578-3716, www.survival.pitt.edu.

"How HIV Education Is Essential in Conflict and Emergency Contexts," James Jacob, director of Pitt's Institute for International Studies in Education, noon **Feb. 10,** 4130 Posvar Hall, International Education Brown Bag Series, Pitt Global Studies Program, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Missing Lives: Tales From the Chechen War," Zarema Mukusheva, a Pitt 2008-09 Heinz Fellow, 8 p.m. **Feb. 10,** Sutherland Hall Lounge, Pitt's Center for Russian and East European Studies, Global Studies Program, International Studies Living Learning Community, 412-624-2918, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Presidential Libraries: The Last Campaign; How Presidents Rewrite History, Run for Posterity, and Enshrine their Legacies," Anthony Clark, information technology consultant who is writing a history of the U.S. Presidential libraries, 11 a.m. **Feb. 11,** Room 501 Information Sciences Building, Archival Agitators and Advocates Lecture Series, Pitt's School of Information Sciences, 412-624-5139, www.ischool.pitt.edu.

"The Greater Pittsburgh Area NOW: Building a Grass Roots Movement," Patricia Ulbrich, visiting scholar in Pitt's Women's Studies Program, noon **Feb. 11,** 2201 Posvar Hall, Pitt's Women's Studies Program, 412-624-6485, www.wstudies.pitt.edu.

"Religion and Politics in China: Evidence From Survey Data," Wenfang Tang, Pitt professor of political science, noon **Feb. 11,** 2628 Cathedral of Learning, Brown Bag Lunch Colloquium, Pitt's Department of Religious Studies, Asian Studies Center, 412-624-5990, www.religiousstudies.pitt.edu/events.

"Gender and Higher Education in Pakistan," Asif Khan, Jie Cui, and Muriel Zhou, graduate students in Pitt's University Center of International Studies, noon **Feb. 12,** 4130 Posvar Hall, Asia Over Lunch Lecture Series, 412-383-3062, www.ucis.pitt.edu.

"Problem of the Opening of the Arctic Basin," Jaime Toro, West Virginia University professor of geology and geography, 4 p.m. **Feb. 12,** 11 Thaw Hall, Pitt's Department of Geology and Planetary Science, 412-624-8780, www.geology.pitt.edu/colloquium.html.

"Trends in the Health of the Nursing Workforce: Impact on the Clinical Environment," Pamela Klauer Triolo, chief nursing officer at UPMC, noon **Feb. 13,** Lecture Room 3, 4th floor, Scaife Hall, Medical Education Grand Rounds, Pitt School of Medicine, 412-648-9000, www.megr.pitt.edu.

"Against Denoting—Why Rigid Designation and the Causal Theory of Reference Cannot Stand," Erik Curiel, Pitt professor of philosophy of science, 12:05 p.m. **Feb. 13,** 817R Cathedral of Learning, Lunchtime Talk, Center for Philosophy of Science, 412-624-1052, www.pitt.edu/~pittcntr.



Chamber Choir Festival, Heinz Chapel, February 15

Miscellaneous

Pitt Staff Association Council Meeting, noon-2 p.m. **Feb. 11,** 1175 Benedum Hall, 412-624-4236, www.pitt.edu/~sac.

Salsa Lessons, Ryan Mitchell, instructor, 8 p.m. **Feb. 12,** 1228 Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Spanish Club, www.pitt.edu/~sorc/spanish.

Spring 2009 Job/Internship Fair, open only to Pitt students and alumni, meet with recruiters from more than 120 companies, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days; technical day **Feb. 11;** nontechnical day **Feb. 12;** bring resumes, business attire suggested, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, 412-648-7135, www.careers.pitt.edu.

3rd Annual Mr. PittMed Pageant, fundraiser and spoof of the Ms. America pageant by medical students and faculty, proceeds benefit Kenyan children affected by HIV/AIDS, 7 p.m. **Feb. 13,** Scaife Hall Auditorium, Kenya Pediatric HIV Project, Pitt School of Medicine, www.kphp.com/mrpittmed.

Poetry Readings by Jason Irwin and Justin Vicari, award-winning poets, 2 p.m. **Feb. 15,** First Floor Quiet Reading Room, Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland, Sunday Poetry and Reading Series, 412-622-3151, www.carnegieliibrary.org.

Opera/Theater/Dance

Don Pasquale, opera by Gaetano Donizetti, **Feb. 10, 13, and 15,** CAPA Theater, 111 Ninth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Opera, 412-281-0912, www.pittsburghopera.org.

Roméo et Juliette, ballet choreographed by Jean-Christophe Maillot, **Feb. 12-15,** Benedum Center, 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, 412-456-6666, www.pbt.org.

My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra, **Feb. 12-May 10,** 719 Liberty Ave., Downtown, CLO Cabaret Theater, 412-281-3973, www.pittsburghclo.org.

Passion Reflected, three dance premieres, "Remainder," "Ardiente," and "At a Later Date," 8 p.m. **Feb. 13-14, 16-17, 20-21,** New Hazlett Theater, Allegheny Square East, North Side, Attack Theatre, 412-441-8444, www.attacktheatre.com.

Porgy and Bess, opera by George Gershwin, **Feb. 14-15,** Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, 412-621-1499, www.operatheaterpittsburgh.org.

Metamorphoses, by Mary Zimmerman, through **Feb. 15,** O'Reilly Theater, 621 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 412-316-1600, www.ppt.org.

The Seafarer, by Conor McPherson, through **Feb. 15,** City Theatre, 1300 Bingham St., South Side, 412-431-CITY, www.citytheatrecompany.org.

Mouth to Mouth, drama by Kevin Elyot, through **Feb. 22,** Quantum Theatre, 121 Seventh St., Downtown, 412-394-3353, www.quantumtheatre.com.

Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses

Laurie Sampsel, Pitt Department of Music, "O Magnify the Lord With Me: The Musical Contributions of Psalmists Samuel Babcock and Lemuel Babcock," 10:30 a.m. **Feb. 13,** Room 302 Music Building.

3rd Annual Mr. PittMed Pageant, Scaife Hall Auditorium, February 13





Female Brain Cells Better Able to Survive Starvation Than Male Ones, Pitt Researchers Say

By Anita Srikameswaran

Neurons from female rats and mice are better able to survive starvation than neurons from the males because they consume fat rather than protein, said researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The finding could have implications for the nourishment of critically ill patients.

The research team cultured sets of neurons from male and female rats and mice and deprived them of nutrients for 72 hours to gauge the potential impact of starvation on the brain. The team was led by Robert Clark, a professor of critical care medicine at Pitt, associate director of molecular biology in Pitt's Safar Center for Resuscitation Research, and a pediatric intensivist at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC; and Lina Du, research associate in Pitt's Department of Critical Care Medicine.

"Within 24 hours, neurons from the males were dying off because they initiated a self-eating process called autophagy," Clark said. "But neurons from the females mobilized fatty acids and made lipid droplets to use as a fuel source, prolonging their survival."

The findings, published in the Jan. 23 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, are the first indication that critical nutritional stress can kill neurons. Known to happen in other tissues during periods of starvation, possibly as a last-ditch survival effort, the process of autophagy leads to cell destruction and the breakdown of complex proteins, generating amino acids and other biological building blocks that could nourish remaining cells.

Sex differences in response to famine have been apparent for nearly a century, with females the heartier of the sexes. Part of the explanation for this observation could be that during nutritional deprivation, male cells tend to lean on energy primarily from protein sources, while female



"We really need to take critical care nutrition to the next level," he said. "We can show that undernourishment of the brain during times of illness could lead to worse neurological outcomes, so it may be important to feed men and women, and boys and girls, differently to prevent brain-cell death."

—Robert Clark

whether the autophagy process is occurring in the brains of critically ill patients.

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

ones lean on fat. The current research suggests that during times of critical nutritional stress, males might be better off if they used fat-derived fuel, as females do.

Autophagy-induced cell death in the brain could result in permanent damage, Clark said. Other research has revealed brain atrophy, or shrinkage, on scans of brain-injured and other critically ill patients, who likely were stressed and possibly insufficiently nourished during long hospitalizations.

"We really need to take critical care nutrition to the next level," he said. "We can show that undernourishment of the brain during times of illness

could lead to worse neurological outcomes, so it may be important to feed men and women, and boys and girls, differently to prevent brain-cell death."

Intensive care specialists are able to save more lives than ever before, noted study coauthor and Safar Center director Patrick Kochanek, a vice chair and professor of critical care medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine.

"Prevention of subtle neurological problems, such as mild cognitive disturbances, is becoming a key final frontier in the intensive care unit," he said. "Many times when these problems arise, the cause is somewhat of a mystery."

In future work, Clark and his team hope to develop a bedside test to determine



Robert Clark

PUBLICATION NOTICE The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Feb. 16. Items for publication in the newspaper's *Happenings* calendar (see page 7) should be received six working days prior to the desired publication date. *Happenings* items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.

