

## University biologist seeks health insight with fruit-fly study

By Nick Beres  
Of the Emerald

A University biologist says his research with fruit flies may lead to more effective prevention and treatment of heart disease.

John Postlethwait, a biology professor who heads University research funded by the American Heart Association, says people with high levels of cholesterol in their blood stand a much greater chance of suffering from heart disease.

"A major risk factor in the development of arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) is the accumulation of cholesterol in the blood stream," he says.

"Our work involves genetic studies that are not morally possible to do with humans," Postlethwait says. "We work with the flies because the genetic process is basically the same."

Modified lipoprotein (LDL) genes are sliced into the egg of a fly. The genes are then incorporated into the fly's chromosomes.

When the egg develops into an adult fly, it will have altered genes and then biologists can study the protein's action, Postlethwait says. "The goal of our research is to modify the lipoprotein then study how it affects the removal of cholesterol from the blood," he says.

Postlethwait says he hopes the research will reveal a genetic change that improves the removal of cholesterol from the blood. It would then be possible to make an analogous change in the human LDL for the same results.

Postlethwait admits his research will not immediately cure heart disease. However, he does envision a development of a gene that can be injected into human bone marrow and result in more efficient cholesterol removal.

When this procedure is perfected, he says, it may prevent a large number of heart attacks and strokes.

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Staff positions are: Managing Editor News Editor Editorial Page Editor Editorial Page Assistant Photo Editor Sports Editor Friday Editions Editors Sidelines Editor Graphics/Supplements Assistant Associate Editors: Higher Education Administration Student Government Student Activities General Assignment Community Features The Oregon Daily Emerald is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS!

Political Science Peer Advising is now accepting applications for its 1985-86 staff. Applications are available in 907 PLC. Deadline is May 24th. 5160:5-14

THE UO YWCA seeks coordinators for its Multi-Cultural Friendship Program and Exceptional Friendship Program beginning Fall 1985. For more information, contact the YWCA at 686-4439. Deadline is May 24th! 5-17

## HELP WANTED

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Women's Task Force Coordinator  
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