

National/Regional

Task force to report on PSU

PORTLAND (AP) — A study of how Portland State University can become a comprehensive research university will be presented to the Oregon Board of Higher Education.

A nine-member task force made up of present and former board members will give its report Feb. 21.

The chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte told the task force Monday that a young, urban university has to provide something needed to gain the respect that attracts more funding and a top-quality faculty.

Chancellor E.K. Fretwell Jr., who was invited to speak by Loren Wyss, chair of the task force, said urban universities should search for ways to meet their cities' future needs.

"Continuing education should be continued at a very high level," Fretwell said. "This is what

an urban university ought to be doing now and in the future. Student participation is important, and where better can you get it than in an urban setting?"

Like Portland State, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte grew from a two-year college serving veterans to a four-year university, Fretwell said.

However, North Carolina-Charlotte does not have doctoral programs as Portland State does, Fretwell said.

"I think PSU is 10 years further ahead than we are," he said. "It is in the major population center of the state, and it is authorized to do things we don't have the authorization to do."

"It is important for people to realize that they have a good thing here if they know how to steer it," Fretwell added.

New spray may prevent colds

BOSTON (AP) — A nose spray made from the hormone interferon is the first treatment to protect people from catching the common cold, and it may someday become a routine weapon against this pervasive woe, researchers say.

Two new studies found that the spray is highly potent against rhinovirus, by far the most frequent cause of colds, when people use it at home. It can prevent nearly 80 percent of all colds caused by this variety of virus.

The spray was powerless against other germs, such as the influenza virus, that also cause cold symptoms. But despite this shortcoming, those who used the spray suffered 40 percent fewer colds overall than those who did not.

This is, to our knowledge, the first instance where it has been possible under natural field conditions to show prevention of transmission of colds in the household, said Dr. Frederick Hayden.

Earlier attempts at using interferon against the cold produced annoying stuffiness — one of the symptoms researchers were trying to prevent — and those taking the treatment suffered more cold-like miseries than those who didn't.

In the two new studies, reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, the interferon spray was not used to cure the common cold, only to prevent it. However, Hayden is conducting another study to see if it does any good once a person comes down with a cold.

The sprays are not yet on the market. Schering Corp., which produced the interferon used in the two studies, has applied for approval from the Food and Drug Administration to sell it as a prescription drug.

The treatment was tested by Hayden and colleagues at the University of Virginia and by a team headed by Dr. Robert Douglas at the University of

Adelaide in Australia. The results of the two experiments were nearly identical, and the Australian group said their work provides "convincing evidence" of interferon's strength against the common cold.

In an attempt to avoid interferon's side effects, the researchers gave the medicine in higher dosages over a shorter period of time than in previous studies. The strategy worked, and about 10 percent had minor nasal bleeding but no other symptoms.

In the Australian study, doctors tested interferon on 46 families, while the Virginia researchers tested 60 families. Half got interferon sprays, while the rest were supplied with look-alike placebos.

In both studies, adults took the medicine only if another family member came home with a cold. They then sprayed themselves once a day for a week.

Lottery jackpot wheel spinners win \$25,000

PORTLAND (AP) — No one captured the big prize, but three Willamette Valley men won \$25,000 apiece Wednesday in the weekly Oregon lottery jackpot wheel spin.

There were two jackpot slots on the wheel, but no one managed to take the \$630,129 top prize. Oregon lottery spokeswoman Harriet Skoog said there will be three jackpot slots on the wheel next week, when the jackpot is expected to reach nearly \$1 million.

The three \$25,000 winners were Shawn Center of Scio, Richard Campau of Jefferson and Robert Deibele of Lebanon.

Center, 20, is a plywood laborer at Simpson Timber Co. in Albany. Campau, 46, is a baker at the Keizer Safeway store and Deibele, 43, is unemployed.

Four people won \$10,000 apiece — Glenn Brittenham of Hood River, Patricia Najar of Portland, Jimmy Morgan of Roseburg and Mason Stoneman of Spokane, Wash.

Three others each won \$5,000. — Gregory McKenzie of Woodburn, Chung Suk Yim of Portland and Karen Matthews of Portland.

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