



World Beat

International

Tonegawa gets prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Susumu Tonegawa, a Japanese researcher working in the United States, won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for discovering how the body makes millions of kinds of antibodies to fight disease.

His findings could help improve vaccines and make organ transplants safer, said the Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institute, which awards the prize.

Hans Wigzell of the institute said Tonegawa's research also may be significant in fighting such diseases as acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS, which destroys the body's immune system.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, where he has worked since 1981, the 48-year-old Tonegawa told reporters:

"The problem of how our body can respond to so many different kinds of pathogens was one of the most hotly debated issues in immunology. We did not understand how that happened.

"It turned out that, contrary to what many people thought, genes can change during the life cycle of the individual. That finding was unexpected to many, and yet it answered one of the mysteries of immunology."

Asked what impact his work might have on AIDS research, the scientist said: "What we have done and are doing is not designed specifically to solve the problem of AIDS, but it's probable that the information we get will be useful in solving it."

Wigzell, a professor of immunology, said Tonegawa's work could play an important role in understanding diseases such as AIDS, but "it would be too simple" to say there was an immediate bearing on finding a cure for the deadly disease.

Tonegawa, the first Japanese to receive the medicine prize, "answered a question that has been debated for years: How can the body's 100,000 genes produce a billion different antibodies?" said Goran Holm, a member of the Nobel Assembly.

Antibodies are important tools in identifying viruses and bacteria that invade the body, and in preparing the immune system for attacking the intruders. Each is targeted by nature on an invading virus or bacteria.

Tonegawa's research helped clarify how the immune system sometimes produces faulty antibodies that cause allergies. It explained breakdowns that occur when the antibodies strike

the body's own defenses, as with diabetes, in which antibodies neutralize insulin-producing cells.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan congratulated Tonegawa and expressed pride that a Japanese researcher's work was so highly valued by the international scientific community.

The medicine award was the first to be announced of the six prizes established by Alfred Nobel, the 19th-century Swedish chemist who invented dynamite and amassed a fortune. This year each award is worth \$340,000.

Much of Tonegawa's pioneering work, was done at Basel Institute for Immunology in Switzerland. He spent 10 years there before moving to MIT, where he is a professor in the biology department and Center for Cancer Research. He was born in Nagoya, Japan.

Last year's laureates in medicine were Stanley Cohen of the United States and Rita Levi-Montalcini of Italy for discoveries of growth factors in human and animal tissue.

On Tuesday, the Nobel Peace Prize is to be announced in Oslo, Norway, where the winner is chosen by a special committee of Parliament. Prizes in chemistry, physics, literature and economics will be announced later.

All prizes will be presented in ceremonies Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

Mustard gas surfaces

READING, England (AP) — Families living within a half-mile of an unused military camp were evacuated by police Monday after a cache of World War I mustard gas was unearthed.

Police said they called in army bomb disposal experts to remove the gas canisters near Basingstoke, 48 miles southwest of London.

The canisters of the gas, which killed and blinded thousands of soldiers fighting Germany in the trenches of France and Belgium, were found during work to lay a water main.

The army experts put on protective clothing and lifted the canisters by hand to lessen the risk of them splitting open.

Fighting rages

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The Indian army parachuted commandos into the northern Jaffna Peninsula Monday, stepping up a three-day offensive that has left about 250 Tamil rebels dead, Sri Lankan sources said.

Heavy fighting raged at two villages near the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, one just north of the city and the other 12 miles farther north, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Indian government radio reported fighting throughout the night around Jaffna, 190 miles north of Colombo, the capital.

At least 15 members of the Indian peacekeeping force have been killed as the Indian army tries to enforce a peace accord aimed at ending the island-nation's four-year Tamil insurgency, the sources said.

They said all of the rebel dead were members of the largest militia, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has been resisting the Indian-backed peace act.

Snow hits Australia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A freak snow storm hit Australia's capital city Monday only two weeks after one of the hottest September months since records began.

The unseasonal flurry covered Canberra's streets with a half-inch of snow. It lasted just over two hours as temperatures dropped to 32 degrees, the city's Bureau of Meteorology said.

"It did not last long and although children were making snowmen at breakfast by midday people were in short sleeves enjoying sunny temperatures of... (53.6 degrees)," said a bureau spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The snow hit much of southeastern Australia and was the region's first October snowfall in 13 years, she said.

September marks the start of the Southern Hemisphere spring. September in Canberra this year averaged 69.8 degrees.

Crocodile eats man

WINDHOEK, South-West Africa (AP) — A crocodile grabbed a postmaster by the ankle and dragged him into the Zambezi River as the man was warning women and children about the danger of playing in the water, the South African Press Association reported Monday.

Postmaster Kobus Slabbert was presumed dead.

Residents of Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Strip between Botswana, Angola and Zambia said Slabbert struggled furiously as the alligator dragged him down the muddy bank into the water. He kept on fighting in the water, surfacing twice and screaming for help before he was pulled under again, they said.

The search for Slabbert's body was called off Sunday night.

Slabbert's friend, Bob Britz, said three families were picnicking Sunday when Slabbert saw women and children playing in the shallow water about 25 yards away and went to warn them about the danger of crocodiles.

Seconds later, a large crocodile crawled up the bank, gripped Slabbert's ankle in its jaws and disappeared under the water, said Britz.

Regional

Driver gets 40 years

EUGENE (AP) — A man convicted in a drunken driving accident that killed the daughter of Benton County's district attorney and her friend has been sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Donald Ray Miller of Eugene was given a minimum term of 8 years and ordered to pay \$50,000 in fines to the families of the two victims, both University students.

Miller, 43, had at least six prior drunken driving convictions over a 20-year period, prosecutor Frank Papagni noted. Miller completed numerous counseling and traffic safety programs after the earlier arrests but was unable to control his alcohol problem, Papagni said.

Miller was found guilty Aug. 21 on two counts of first-degree manslaughter and a charge of second-degree criminal mischief in the deaths of Cynthia Marie Lind Sandrock of Corvallis and her passenger, Eric James Wilson of Oregon City.

Ms. Sandrock, 20, the daughter of Benton County District Attorney Peter Sandrock, died at the scene of the crash on Highway 99 north of Junction City. Wilson, 18, was a passenger in the car.

The accident occurred the night of Feb. 5, when Miller ran a stop sign and slammed broadside into Ms. Sandrock's car. Miller and a passenger in his car suffered only minor injuries.

"I know a lot of people have

been hurt by all this," Miller said before the sentence was pronounced. "I'm just so sorry."

Lane County Circuit Judge Gordon Cottrell acknowledged Miller's remorse but said the sentence was intended to protect the public and send a message to drivers who drink.

Miller had a valid driver's license at the time of the accident despite his previous drunken driving convictions.

Testimony at the trial showed that Miller had been drinking for nearly the entire afternoon before the crash.

A \$1.2-million wrongful death lawsuit filed against Miller last month by Ms. Sandrock's mother, Lynda Leonard Sandrock of Corvallis, has not yet been resolved. The Lane County Circuit Court complaint seeks \$1 million in general damages, \$200,000 in punitive damages and \$1,400 in special damages from Miller and his wife, Bernadine Miller.

Murder suspect held

EUGENE (AP) — A 24-year-old Junction City man was arrested Monday by Lane County sheriff's deputies in connection with the death of a Veneta resident, authorities said.

Mark Alan Murray was arrested without incident in connection with the death of John Joseph Shaddy, 21, deputies said.

Shaddy's body was found Aug. 12th buried at the Clay Creek Campground 35 miles west of Eugene after Murray anonymously called sheriff's deputies, authorities said.

Deputies said Murray was a friend of the victim.

Arraignment is set for Wednesday in Lane County Circuit Court and deputies said no additional arrests are anticipated.

Alex Carl Alvarez, 19, of Gardiner, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated murder in connection with Shaddy's death. Alvarez could face the death penalty if convicted.

Murray was indicted by a grand jury. The murder charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison upon conviction.

Cultural exchange offered

Intercambio Internacional de Estudiantes, A.C., a cultural exchange program, is offering local families the opportunity to share their home life with a young boy or girl from Central America.

Children will arrive during November, December or January for a eight- to nine-week stay.

Founded in 1959, the IN-

TERCAMBIO Program has successfully arranged for more than 50,000 children and families to meet and experience one another's cultures.

INTERCAMBIO is designed for younger children, ages 13 to 17, who are looking for a home that has a youngster of the age, sex and similar interests.



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