

COMMUNITY

New drug developed for stroke victims

By Ruth Rowland

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

A revolutionary new drug that may prevent further brain damage in stroke victims is being developed with the help of a University chemistry lab.

"Maybe, if we're lucky, we'll have the first stroke drug on the market," said chemistry professor John Keana, who led the University's research group. The drug is presently being tested on humans.

When part of a person's brain loses oxygen during a stroke, Keana said, a chemical reaction ensues which continues to kill brain cells for hours after the initial damage. The new drug, Cerestat, binds to a site in the brain and blocks this reaction.

Currently, all doctors can do for stroke patients is to make them comfortable and give them anti-coagulants to prevent further strokes, Keana said.

The University research started back in the late 1980s, in conjunction with a research team at the University of California at Irvine, he said. Originally, the group set out to develop a new series of anti-psychotic drugs which would avoid the side-effects of current therapies.

But the research, which involved an international group of University post-doctoral students and graduate students, unfolded from the original brain site to a different one, Keana said.

Keana's group is currently working on another stroke drug that binds at yet a third site, one which was scarcely even known 10 years ago, he said.

Getting a drug from the research stage into hospitals is no simple feat, Keana said. It generally takes about 10 years and up to \$200 million to get a potential drug through a "battalion" of pharmacological and toxicological tests required by the FDA before the drug moves into clinical trials with human patients.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 344-0632.

Participatory Dialogue will meet tonight at 7:15 in the EWEB Community Room. For more information, call 344-1383.

Programs Council will meet with directors and representatives of ASUO and IFC-funded programs today at 3 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-0622.

MISCELLANEOUS

International Students Association will sponsor Europe Day today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. For more information, call 346-4367.

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance will present a public lecture by writer and political activist Susan Stryker, titled "Rethinking Sex: Situating Transgender

Studies in Contemporary Feminist Inquiry," tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Gumwood Room. For more information, call 346-1142.

Provost Search Committee will present a public presentation by one of the candidates for vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, Charles R. Middleton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, today at 4 p.m. in Room 128 Chiles Center.

Linfield College — Eugene Program will present a lecture on the historical context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations by Vivian Bull, president of Linfield College, tonight at 7 in First United Methodist Church, 1387 Olive St. (behind the Eugene Public Library). For more information, call 345-5476.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon and is requested to be published earlier.

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Eugene celebrates Latino culture this weekend

By Stephanie Sisson

Oregon Daily Emerald

The third annual Eugene Fiesta Latina will be Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7.

The Fiesta, a celebration of Cinco de Mayo, will feature food, music, art, children's games and vendors at the Washington-Jefferson Park under the overpass. Admission is free.

"It's an alcohol-free celebration of the culture of Latin American and the growing diversity and vitality of the Whiteaker neighborhood and the larger community," said Francisca Johnson,

spokeswoman for the Fiesta.

The celebration begins at 6 p.m. Friday with a dinner honoring Latino youth and Latin classical and contemporary music from the Mozart Players. "Caliente," a local salsa band, will play later in the evening.

Saturday the celebration continues at 11 a.m. with Latin American folk singers, a children's dance troupe, Tex-Mex music and the rhythm of "Latin Expression," described as a "shake-em up salsa band."

Throughout the day Saturday, vendors will sell Latin American

crafts and food. There will also be a special children's stage, with storytelling, mimes, music and magic. The heart of the Fiesta, "La Cocina," (The Kitchen) will feature special dishes from the cuisine of Latin America, served by eight local families.

Transportation on all LTD buses is free all day Saturday, and a shuttle bus will leave downtown Eugene every 20 minutes.

For more information about the Fiesta Latina, call Angie Sifuentez at work, 741-6100, or at home, 343-9409.

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Oregon's last trooper died

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The last of Oregon's original state troopers has died at a nursing home in the Eugene area. Paul Parson was 98.

Oregon's oldest trooper joined the state police on Aug. 1, 1931, the date the agency was formed.

"The problems we're experiencing today were prevalent back then," Sgt. Aaron Olson said Wednesday. "They were having trouble with the fragmentation of different police agencies. The Legislature was convinced that having a state police agency would help them."

Parson was one of 112 original officers sworn in, Olson said. Today, the agency has approximately 900 sworn officers.

"When he came on, the two-way radio was just starting to become popular in law enforcement. We didn't have overhead lights on patrol cars," Olson said. "Things were not as sophisticated as they were today."

During Parson's 27-year career with the state agency, he was stationed at St. Helens, Astoria, Bend, Klamath Falls, Roseburg, Medford and Baker.

Parson rose to the rank of captain, serving for 14 years as district operations commander in Medford. He retired from to post on Sept. 1st, 1958.

"Oregon really benefited from these forefathers of today's officers," Olson said. "It's part of Oregon's history."

Parson was born Jan. 19, 1896, in Gales Creek. He graduated from Forest Grove High School in 1916 and served with the U.S. Marine Corps in World War I.

Parson was the police chief in Forest Grove from 1924 to 1929 and served in the Washington County sheriff's office from 1929 to 1931.

He died Monday.