

# Grant to benefit substance abuse prevention

The money will help establish an Adolescent Transitions Program for three West Coast Native American tribes

NICHOLAS WILBUR  
NEWS REPORTER

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism gave a five-year, \$3.7 million grant to the University's Child and Family Center to establish an Adolescent Transitions Program (ATP) for three West Coast Native American tribes.

The grant will affect approximately 300 tribal families by providing

parenting support services that will help curtail substance abuse in adolescence.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Klamath Tribe of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Washington have volunteered to collaborate with the University's Child and Family Center principal investigators and faculty.

Co-investigator and Family Center Director of Research Thomas Dishion is the co-author of "Intervening in Adolescent Problem Behavior: A Family-Centered Approach," where he and Kate Kavanagh summarize 15 years of the Adolescent Transitions Program research and development of an ecological approach to alcohol abuse and other problem behaviors of adolescents, a book review said.

"A lot of outside programs impose their models of parenting on communities," Dishion said. "But we integrate what we know to work while considering the families' input, so we

can be more culturally sensitive."

Dishion said that adolescence is a time when parents usually reduce the amount of monitoring and supervision of their kids; "so we'll support family management skills for early adolescence," a time when alcohol abuse increases in many families, especially in tribe reservations.

To combat the expected rise in alcohol abuse, the Family Center will travel to each community and provide family check-ups where parents can come to voice their concerns about their children's behaviors. They will be able to meet one-on-one

with psychologists as well as attend group meetings with other parents.

"This is a strength-based model," Dishion said, "meaning we reinforce what the parents are doing well and recommend things they can improve on."

Principal Investigator for the grant Alison Foyd-Ball has established a team of Native American psychologists, mental health professionals and advisory boards within each tribe.

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## IN BRIEF

### Committee cancels its second summer meeting

The second Senate Summer Committee meeting, which was to take place Wednesday, was canceled because Senators were unable to make 2/3 quorum. The Senators held their last meeting on June 22.

The next meeting date has not been scheduled, but Senate chair Reinier Heyden wrote in an e-mail that it should take place sometime after Aug. 4. According to the ASUO Green Tape Notebook, the rules and regulations guide, "The Summer Committee shall meet at least once a month and when deemed necessary by the Summer Chair."

If the Senate does not reschedule a meeting before "after Aug. 4," at least 44 days will have passed, which would be a violation of Senate rules, according to the Notebook. Though the summer term senators were unavailable for comment, Senator Heyden wrote in an e-mail that Jessica Nair, Sara Hamilton and Spencer Crum were unable to attend.

—By Nicholas Wilbur

## Brain: Techonology helpful for epileptics

Continued from page 1

high-performance computer system — they developed a three-dimensional computational algorithm that could pinpoint the location of electrical sources in the human brain.

In May, their paper on the discovery was chosen out of 200 entries as one of three winners of an award of excellence presented at the Fifth International Conference on Computational Science.

"The mapping of the EEG signals to the sources in the brain is a difficult problem, because you have to know the physics of the human head, which has to do with the physical properties of tissues as well as its shape," said Allen Malony, director of NIC and one of the co-authors.

"Our model is based upon real structure, real physics, real individual properties of human subjects," Malony said.

The University has filed for a preliminary patent on the process based on the advanced human head model. Licensing the process from the University, CDS will develop

software to employ the process and apply the technology to clinical treatment.

The scientists already succeeded in proving the accuracy of their brain imaging technology with a case study. In January, Tucker and his colleagues at EGI precisely predicted the location of seizure onset in the brain of a 13-year-old girl who suffered from intractable seizure disorder, epilepsy uncontrollable by medication.

They estimated the location of the source in the girl's brain that generated the seizure using a product that that EGI developed, a dense-array EEG system with 128 channels.

After making two holes in the girl's skull and measuring the location with two electrodes directly attached to the girl's brain for surgery, they found that the predicted location exactly matched the actual seizure onset. The girl has not had a seizure since a neurosurgeon used the information to determine which part of her brain to operate on.

"This is the first time we've

showed that the dense-array EEG system could localize the seizure onset. The experiment is generating a lot of interest in the medical community. But we need validation with more patients before we know it's effective," Tucker said.

By licensing the University's technology to private companies, like CDS, the University continues to increase its licensing revenues.

"With more than \$2 million during fiscal year 2005, the University's licensing revenues will set a record for the 10th consecutive year since fiscal year 1996," said Don Gerhart, director for the Office of Technology Transfer.

The official figures for fiscal year 2005, which ended June 30, will be announced in about a month, he added. The University's licensing revenues amounted to \$1.78 million and \$1.93 million for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, respectively.

"The application of University inventions to serve societal needs also enriches the local economy and generates jobs," Gerhart said.

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