

Health & SCIENCE



Infants Protection From Streptococcus

Initial studies show that a new vaccine given to mothers may offer their infants protection against group B streptococcus while still in the womb.

GBS is the chief cause of life-threatening infection in newborns. It is a bacteria found in the vagina or lower intestine of 15 to 35 percent of all women. GBS differs from group A streptococcus, which causes strep throat.

In Phase I and II studies at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, a

vaccine developed at Harvard Medical School has shown it can provide immunity against GBS, although more studies are needed to confirm safety and optimal dose.

Dr. Carol J. Baker, head of pediatric infectious disease at Baylor, oversaw the study of the vaccine. The vaccine is being tested solely at Baylor College of Medicine.

"The vaccine is similar to the one used successfully for hemophilus type b influenza, a conjugate vaccine,

combining sugars or polysaccharide from the bacterial surface with a protein, in this case, tetanus toxoid."

Conjugate vaccines work when polysaccharides are attached to proteins, making a substance more likely to be recognized by the immune system so that immunity or protection is stimulated.

"This makes for a much more powerful vaccine," Baker said.

"In this particular case, the developer, Dr. Dennis Kasper at Harvard,

derived the protein from tetanus toxoids identical to that in tetanus toxoid vaccine."

The NIH-funded study included 70 non-pregnant women, ages 18 to 40. No adverse affects were reported and nearly 90 percent of those vaccinated showed a four-fold increase in antibody to GBS.

Findings from the study were reported at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academy Societies in Washington, D.C.

Multicultural Health Director Appointed

Elinor Hall, administrator at Oregon Health Division, has appointed Dr. Suganya Sockalingham as director of the division's Office of Multicultural Health.

Sockalingham comes from the Washington State Department of Health where she served as Multicultural Health Specialist with the Wom-

en, Infants and Children program since 1992. Her job included managing 12 local agency contracts and providing technical assistance to institutionalize cultural competence into all program activities.

"Dr. Sockalingham has broad experience and education in both public health and multicultural health,"

Hall said. "Her skills and leadership will help us improve the effectiveness of our programs in minority communities."

While in Washington, Sockalingham was active in organizations that deal with multi-cultural issues, including the Division of Community Health's Multicultural

Workgroup for 1994-95, the Minority Health Coalition, and the Community Research Partnership.

Sockalingham is trilingual and holds a doctorate in Nutrition and in Cultural Anthropology. She also has a wide range of international experience and has worked in India, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia and Nicaragua.

Black Chiropractors Pick Portland For 1997 Convention

The National Association of Black Chiropractors has selected Portland, Oregon as the site for their organization's 1997 annual convention.

As a result of a joint marketing effort by Oregon Convention and Visitor Services Network (OCVSN) and Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA), the group was convinced to bring their convention to the "City of Roses."

The Black Chiropractors are just

one of many minority conventions that are selecting Portland over other West Coast cities, said Roy Jay, R President of OCVSN.

As a result of OCVSN's strong national marketing and public relations campaigns, Portland has also been selected by Amalgamated Transit Union - Black Caucus (May '96), Blacks In Government (May '96), National Association of Minority Contractors (June '96) and National

Association of Minority Medical Educators (September '96).

Two years ago, Metro Regional Government invested in a separate contract with OCVSN to market Portland to minority groups. "The dividends are starting to pay off, but this is just the beginning," says Jay, who is currently the president of a national minority convention and tourism association.

The National Association of Black Chiropractors will be selecting a hotel for their convention within the next few months.

Drug Companies Seek a Cure for MS

BY LARRY LUCAS

When Barbara Jordan died earlier this year at the age of 59, our country lost a great statesperson, African-American lost an inspiring role model, and I lost a wonderful friend.

The daughter of a Baptist minister and a domestic worker, Barbara Jordan graduated with honors from Texas Southern University and earned a law degree from Boston University. She became the first African-American to be elected to the Texas Senate since Reconstruction and, in 1972, won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was clearly headed for the top—higher than any African-American or any woman had gone before. But she was stopped—not by racism or sexism—but by disease. In the prime of her life, in the prime of her political career, Barbara Jordan developed multiple sclerosis—MS.

MS is a progressive disease of the central nervous system in which scattered patches of the covering of nerve fibers in the brain and spinal cord are destroyed.

The cause of the disease is unknown. It usually strikes people between 20 and 40, and symptoms include problems with vision, speech, balance, and coordination, as well as numbness and tremors.

When I reunited with Rep. Jordan in 1984 after she had left Washington, her mind and her eloquent voice were as strong as ever. But her

body was deteriorating tragically.

Jordan was confined to a wheelchair, and a student traveled with her to help her dress and bathe.

While it's too late to save Barbara Jordan, I'm happy to report that pharmaceutical company currently have 11 medicines in development for MS, including two on which testing has been completed and applications for approval are waiting at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). And Betaseron, which was approved by the FDA in 1993, has helped thousands of MS patients. None of these medicines is cure for this terrible disease, but pharmaceutical research provides the hope that a cure will eventually be found. This year, U.S. pharmaceutical companies will spend nearly \$16 billion to discover and develop new medicines—including an estimated \$3 billion on diseases of the central nervous system, including MS. This area of research is second only to cancer in the amount of pharmaceutical research funds devoted to it.

Pharmaceutical research can't bring back the leader that President Clinton called "a great woman and a gifted public servant." But, over time, it will bring a cure for the disease that stopped a brilliant career in its tracks.

For a free copy of "New Medicines in Development for Neurologic Disorders," write to PhRMA, 1100 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

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Donors Announced

Top donors to Albertina Kerr Centers' capital campaign were recognized at the agency's annual board meeting held, May 15 at the Kerr Youth and Family Center. The campaign is aimed at raising \$2.5 million for the construction of a new 24-bed residential psychiatric treatment facility for boys age 8-14 and renovations to the Wynne Watts School located at the Kerr Youth and Family Center campus.

It was announced that the lead gift to date is a \$150,000 grant from the Collins Foundation. The agency has also received \$120,000 from a Gresham Community Development Block Grant and \$100,000 from a Multnomah County Community Development Block Grant.

Other top donors include: Clark Foundation, Portland Foundation, Rose Tucker Charitable Trust, Stimson Lumber Company, Fred

Meyer, Inc., Bay News, US Bancorp, First Interstate Bank, and the Autzen Foundation.

The Albertina Kerr Centers board of directors has combined to collect over \$312,000 in pledges bringing the total raised-to-date to \$1,240,956.

In addition to the recognition of top campaign donors, the agency recognized the many contributions made by Wilbur K. Hood.

Mr. Hood, who died April 22 at age 97, served on the board of Albertina Kerr Centers for 57 years and was president from 1946 to 1965.

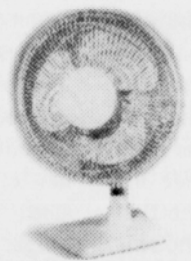
Albertina Kerr Centers, founded in 1907, provides day and residential psychiatric treatment, therapeutic foster care, adoption services, early intervention services for youth at risk and job training and residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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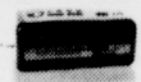
Pain may be eliminated for millions

(SPECIAL)--A new drug has been approved that is exciting researchers in the treatment of pain. This material has been formulated into a new product known as "Arthur Itis_{TM}" and is being called a "Medical Miracle" by some, in the treatment of debilitating conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, painful muscle aches, joint aches, simple backache, bruises, and more. Although the mechanism of action is unclear, experiments indicate that Arthur Itis_{TM} relieves pain by first selectively attracting, and then destroying the messenger chemical which carries pain sensations to the brain, thus eliminating pain in the affected area. Arthur Itis_{TM} is an orderless, greaseless, non-staining cream and is available immediately without a prescription and is guaranteed to work. Use only as directed.

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LOSE 20 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS!

Famous U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet

During the non-snow off season the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team members used the "Ski Team" diet to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. That's right - 20 pounds in 14 days! The basis of the diet is chemical food action and was devised by a famous Colorado physician especially for the U.S. Ski Team. Normal energy is maintained (very important!) while reducing. You keep "full" - no starvation - because the diet is designed that way. It's a diet that is easy to follow whether you work, travel or stay at home. (For men, too!)

This is, honestly, a fantastically successful diet. If it weren't, the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team wouldn't be permitted to use it! Right? So, give yourself the same break the U.S. Ski Team gets. Lose weight the scientific, proven way. Even if you've tried all the other diets, you owe it to yourself to try the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet. That is, if you really do want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Order today! Tear this out as a reminder.

Send only \$8.95 (\$9.60 in Calif.)-add .50 cents RUSH service to: American Institute, 7343 El Camino Real, Suite 206, Atascadero, CA 93422. Don't order unless you expect to lose 20 pounds in two weeks! Because that's what the Ski Team Diet will do.

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